

Little River Currents

MEGWAA



EZHWEBAAK

December, 2004 Vol. 1 Issue 10



Leadership America training seminar - Nita Guenthardt



NITA GUENTHARDT, OUR LRBOI GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR, WAS RECENTLY SELECTED AS ONE OF ONLY 14 WOMEN ACCROSS THE COUNTRY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LEADERSHIP AMERICA TRAINING SEMINAR.

Nita expects the program will compliment her skills in Economic Development and give her more expertise in dealing with the Tribe's Manufacturing and Business development goals.

Nita also brings with her a wealth of new business contacts that might benefit the Tribe and Tribal Members in their business ventures. She hopes to create a form and format that Tribal Members can use to create Limited Liability Companies through the Tribe, including a definite action plan for them to follow.

It is an honor to be selected for this elite training. To be accepted in the program, Nita had to submit an application questionnaire and her resume. Only a limited amount of women are chosen, mainly based on their potential contribution to women's advancement in the business world.

- by Emily Drouin

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"This piece is a proud Native Woman. She may be down but has not given up. She prays for Peace, but she is prepared for war." Artist - Jason Dixon. Medium; pen and marker

Wiimzhaakwat waabang (It will be a clear tomorrow)

On December 1, 2004 the Little River Tribal Council approved the submission of a grant application advanced by the Tribal Ogema to establish a Tribal Air Quality Program. The grant application was submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the amount of \$201,594. If funded by EPA, the project is scheduled to begin around the beginning of April 2005.

The basic objectives of the proposed Tribal Air Quality Program are as follows:

- Conduct basic air quality assessment activities that will involve identifying the existence of and possible sources of pollution that may be impacting

the 1836 and 1855 Reservations, and to identify any need for further air quality analysis. This objective will include the purchase, installation, and operation of an air quality monitoring station that will be used to measure the types of air pollutants that may be impacting the Reservation.

- Based on the type, source and extent of pollutants determined to exist and found to be harmful to public health and the environment, the Tribe will investigate the regulatory and enforcement options available to reduce or prevent further air pollution in the area.

- Participation in air quality management. This will involve expanding the Tribe's role and participation in federal/tribal processes for commenting on specific air quality concerns.

- To hire an Air Quality Specialist who will administer the Program. This position would be based out of the Tribe's Natural Resource Department.

These objectives are only the beginning of what will be a multi-year process for the Tribe to exercise greater jurisdiction over air quality matters on or near the Reservation.

- Mark Dougher, Director of Grants

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Little River Band of
Ottawa Indians
375 River St.
Manistee, MI 49660

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Thanksgiving Dinner



This Thanksgiving, the Manistee area locals had a place to go for a festive dinner. Tribal Member Brian Gibson took it upon himself to “round up the troops” and put together a feast. The idea stemmed from wanting to gather his own family for Thanksgiving dinner, but then he realized there were a lot of local people and families that would be alone for the special celebration. “I didn’t like the thought of somebody not having a place to go on a holiday”; says Gibson.

So he went to the Tribal Council and got permission to use the Interim Casino for the day. His parents, James and Stella Gibson and his sister Jean came to help. Justin Knapp, Ryan Champagne, Juanita Antoine, a father and his three sons and Dan, all came together to cook a feast. They had all the necessary ingredients for a Thanksgiving meal, including four turkeys two of which they

deep fried (they roasted the other two). There were yams and mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, gravy, stuffing, pop and coffee. No one left without eating to their heart’s content. They even had half a turkey left over!

Brian Gibson was pleased to say that everyone enjoyed themselves. “There were three elderly ladies that came to thank me. They had nowhere else to go to celebrate. That made it all worth it”, he said, “Everyone was very appreciative, it was a happy Thanksgiving.”

About 100 people came to share Thanksgiving with Brian Gibson, his family and friends. That is what makes Thanksgiving memorable.

A great big thank you to all the people who shared in the spirit of giving by donating their time, to the Little River Casino for coffee, pop, and the use of the building and kitchen, the Olson’s and the Public Information Department for their donations.

- Emily Drouin, Public Information Department

*Three Generations of Medacco’s
Pictured are; Al Medacco, his son James Medacco
and grandson Caleb Medacco after a football game
at Mason County Central school.*



*The Public Information Department and the Little
River Currents would like to wish you all a very
Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday!!*

*May all your wishes come true and may this season
be filled with joy!*



snowblower Blow Out

Every Thursday
In January!

The forecast calls for a blizzard of excitement, followed by flurries of cash and prizes.

January 6, 13, 20 and 27
At 4 p.m, 5 p.m. and 6 p.m.
One lucky player will be chosen each hour to take home \$500 in cash!

At 8 p.m.:

Someone will win a brand new Snowblower – maybe you!

Receive free entries just by visiting us...
You can receive one entry each day beginning December 27th at 10 a.m. and redeem 50 points for additional entries.

Entries are valid for the following Thursday drawing starting January 6th.

Thanks to Little River,
you'll be singing...
Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow!

Must be at least 21 years old. Management reserves the right to change or cancel this promotion at any time. Employees or LRC and promotional agencies, their immediate family and members of their household are exempt from participation. Must be a Player's Club member. Must be present to win. Snowblower may differ from photo. Winner is responsible for pick-up within 30 days of winning. Valid only at Little River Casino Resort.

MICHIGAN INDIAN ELDERS ASSOCIATION 2004/05 STUDENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM

A student incentive program is being offered by the Michigan Indian Elders Association (M.I.E.A.) to recognize students who achieve all “A’s” for a marking period as well as students who achieve perfect attendance for a marking period.

Since the money available to fund this program is limited to \$2,075 the award has been set at \$25 to keep it meaningful, and yet recognize a reasonable number of students. There will be 83 winners who will be determined by lottery. Here are the conditions to qualify:

- The student must be an enrolled member or be a direct descendant of an enrolled member of one of the M.I.E.A. constituent tribes/bands.
- The student must be in grades K-12 at a public or private school. (home schooling not eligible)
- A student must be in grades 4-12 to qualify for the straight “A” award. (A-, A, A+)
- For a school system that uses a grading system based on numbers, the equivalent to straight “A’s” will be acceptable.
- A student must be in grades K-12 to qualify for the perfect attendance award.
- Perfect attendance means exactly that. A student must be in school or at a school sponsored function each day of the marking period. Excused absences for anything other than a school sponsored/approved function do not constitute perfect attendance.
- The first two marking periods of this 2004/2005 school year (or the number of marking periods completed by March 1, 2005 for school systems having something other than four marking periods) will be used to determine the winners for this lottery.
- A student can qualify for both the perfect attendance and straight “A’s” for both marking periods. For example, straight “A’s” and perfect attendance for both marking periods would mean four chances to win.
- A copy of the child’s report card, signed by the parent, must be submitted to verify the achievement of straight “A’s” and perfect attendance.
- Parents assume responsibility for releasing their child’s information to the M.I.E.A. by their signature on the report card.

The drawing to determine the winners will be held at the April 2005 meeting of the Michigan Indian Elders Association at Traverse City, MI.

The student achievement information, which must be verified by the parent’s signature, is to be received at the following address not later than April 1, 2005:

Robert S. Menard, President
Michigan Indian Elders Association
1910 North Lake Drive
Ishpeming, MI 49849

CHS and EHAP NEWS

Happy Holidays to you all! Hope you are all able to be with your loved ones at this blessed time of year. I have just a few regular reminders and some new information on how to get free smoking cessation patches for Michigan residents.

First, please remember to fill out your reassessments as soon as you receive them. This will keep your files updated and current.

Second, if you move, change jobs or insurances, etc., please let us know right away. This information must be kept updated at all times.

Third, if you have ANY questions or concerns regarding your coverage or what services are available, PLEASE call our office right away. The toll free number is 1.888.382.8299 or 231.723.8299.

Attention Michigan residents! If you are a smoker and WANT to quit, or at least try, the Governor has authorized free smoking patches (cessation) to all state residents. If you would like more information, please contact your local health department and they will be able to assist you.

Again, please call with any questions or concerns and have a very Merry Christmas and a vibrant New Year from all of us in the Contract and Extended Health office! Juanita Antoine (A-E), Karla Battice (K-O), Kathy Berentsen (P-S), Cindy Drake (F-J), and Sandy Renner (T-Z).

Respectfully submitted by;
Gina Wright
CHS/EHAP Supervisor

NITA GUENTHARDT

CONTINUED FROM P.1

The program exposes students to instructors from the corporate world that give them ideas and insights on business ideas and how to connect them to the necessary initial capital.

The Tribe will benefit from the information Nita will bring back to us on, amongst other things, working formats for business loans for Tribal Members looking into starting their own businesses as well as the proper steps to take to file a grant application.

Guenthardt feels that Leadership America will also hone her ability to tread the fine line Members have to walk between using the umbrella of the Tribe in the business world, and protecting the Sovereignty of the Tribe. (Chapter 17 LLC).

Nita plans to turn what she learned into pieces of information that she can share with Tribal Member that may need help or advice.

Nita also feels that, combined with her business degree and education, the Leadership America training will better her ability to assess what business acquisitions and investments will be most ben-

eficial to the Tribe. She wants to set concrete goals that are clear to all branches of government – instill fluidity in our economic development strategy. She wants to ensure that the Economic Development Department operates in a business fashion and approaches business opportunities from an angle of definite profit capacity. “A business should pay for it’s own growth and be maintained at a consistently superior managerial level.” She sees the Tribe’s business ventures being able to fund later business growth and acquisitions in the near future.

“Being asked to invest a large sum of capital with a minimum of concrete information is never a good idea”, says Guenthardt, “It’s not a good business strategy.” She wants to make it easier for Tribal Members to submit business ideas in a format that will ensure the full understanding of the Tribe and therefore better their chances of getting Tribal support.

“Attending a seminar like this one is expanding myself, and also making me better able to share information with Tribal Members. “*What if*”s are fundamental

to making or breaking a business – it’s important to be understood and to start a business with a great marketing plan is key.” She talks of, for example manufacturing parts for wind turbines (which we are in the process of assessing as an investment) which would create jobs, income, save money on our venture and be good for the Tribe’s public image as an environmentally involved government. It takes a lot of research, planning, marketing, resources and time to put together a good business, having attended this seminar will give the Tribe, through Nita, an extra boost in having the upper hand.

“This seminar, amongst other things, taught me to establish the networks we need to minimize mistakes – to hone our risk management skills. It has strengthened my skills and abilities and made me better able to blaze a path for Tribal Members. Sometimes the hesitance to attack a situation comes from a lack of skills and training. Education prepares you for the possibilities and to go forward instead of being paralyzed by unexpected challenges.”

Leadership America is the premier national women’s leadership organization that recognizes, educates, and connects accomplished women leaders from business, government, education, and non-profit arenas. Over the past 16 years, nearly 1,600 women leaders have participated in Leadership America’s flagship program, the American Issues Forum, to increase their individual and collective impacts locally, nationally, and globally.

The American Issues Forum (AIF) annually selects a diverse group of some up to 100 women leaders from across the nation for a yearlong, three-city program. AIF provides opportunities for rigorous discussions and in-depth analyses of the critical national and international issues of the day. Each city session encourages proactive learning as participants engage in discussions, debates, sites visits, and lectures. Through contact with national leaders operating at the forefront of America’s political, social, and economic arenas, program participants develop a deepened understanding of how the leading issues of the day impact their respective organizations, communities, and lives.

The program format, when coupled with an ongoing dialogue with other leaders facing similar and disparate challenges, establishes an environment that encourages participants to understand how they may continue to make positive impacts as women in leadership.

By year’s end, participants have also established a lasting, diverse network of resources and contacts that they may call

upon to support their professional and personal development well beyond their initial program experience.

AIF alumnae are currently serving everywhere as successful leaders: as presidents, chief executives, and senior-level administrators; at private and public schools and universities; in governmental agencies at the local, state, and federal levels; in elected office and appointed positions; and within non-profit organizations and foundations nationwide. Many former participants are also entrepreneurs with interests in almost every field and endeavor.

The Selection - Leadership America seeks a diverse cross-section of women from public, private, and volunteer sectors of leadership. From a pool of qualified applicants, each class is carefully chosen to reflect a balance of racial, cultural, geographic, career, and volunteer experiences. The information provided by each application is the sole basis of participant selection. Therefore, we strongly encourage applica

Benefits to the Employer:

- Provide focused development for women identified as having leadership potential in your organization. Through Leadership America they will be exposed to critical national and international issues and the top decision makers, thinkers, and practitioners in diverse areas.
- Enhance the external positioning of your identified women leaders as well as provide them with top role models.

- Tap women into the knowledge bank network, which can assist them in a multitude of ways, including trainers, subject experts/ research contacts, business colleagues, etc.
- Make a statement internally and externally about your organization’s commitment to the development of women and minorities and leaders.
- Recognize an employee for good performance. Improve the level of confidence of your employee, which will encourage them to make quicker and smarter decisions and to take risks by relying on cutting edge thinking.
- Invest in your employee and invest in your organization’s future success.

Benefits to the Participant

- Exposure to critical issues and to top thinkers and decision makers.
- Opportunities to explore potential new leadership roles (i.e. through group dynamics, education on new issues, and exposure to a wide variety of national leaders).
- Public recognition of achievements through press releases and the marketing of participation rosters and biographical information to the media and to national/international organizations.
- Once graduated, the opportunity for membership in a national network of leaders, providing opportunities for collaboration. After completing the three-session program year, eligibility to continue involvement with Leadership America as a member.

**Advertise your Business in the
Little River Currents!
Members - \$15
Non-Members - \$25**

Business Card size ads only

Send your card and a check to:

**Little River Currents
375 River St.
Manistee, MI
49660**



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REALTOR®**

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Home: 231.894.6588
Fax: 231.894.9081
Email: sdwschultz@aol.com



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Montague, MI 49437

**Susan A. Schultz
Realtor**

Office: 231.894.9085
Home: 231.894.6588
Fax: 231.894.9081
Email: dwachultz@aol.com

"Creating Connections for You"

Cigarettes

There are currently no cigarettes available for Tribal Members at the Little River Casino Resort. There will not be any until January 1st, 2005

Low Income Energy Assistance

The Low Income Energy Assistance Program is to provide short term assistance to Tribal members who are experiencing an energy crisis.

Eligibility Requirements:

- a. Member is a permanent member of the household.
- b. Home is located in the continental United States.
- c. The household income does not exceed the income criteria set forth by the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians.
- d. Received a shut off notice from utility vendor
- e. Budgeting issues
- f. Received denial for services from another agency.

Maximum amount of assistance: \$200.00 per year per household.

If you have any questions or would like an application mailed to you, Please contact the Members Assistance Department.:
1-888-723-8288

Miigwetch,

W O R K S H O P

At one time or another, everyone has trouble communicating with someone. This often happens when people reach some stage in their life cycle. Sometimes, you may feel that a significant person in your life has a chronic hearing problem – they don't hear you. This occurs between very small children and parents; teens and parents; partners and adult children and parents. Sometimes, this happens between employee and supervisor.

HELP IS ON THE WAY.

Sonny Smart is an Ojibwe and a professor of Social Work and teaches courses in family interactions. Effective Communication techniques are useful in a variety of settings, including family meetings, talking with a supervisor; or even another employee.

SAVE these dates. January 19 and 20 , 2005. LRBOI Casino Three Fires Conference Rooms. The first day will be for staff and the second day will be reserved for families. Teenagers can benefit from this, also. Plan to attend.

Please call Bernadene Crampton @ 1-888-398-8299, Extension 6609.

This is a wonderful way to start the New Year. No resolutions required.

!Attention ! Members of the Warrior Society

Al Medacco is looking for e-mail addresses and updated addresses from other members of the Warrior Society.

You can either send your information to the Tribal Office at 375 River Street, Manistee, MI 49660 or e-mail Al at strongbear71@aol.com

"Attention Tribal Members!"

Tribal Members interested in serving on any of the following Commissions, please contact Mary Thomas in the Tribal Ogema's office at 231-398-6824 to request an application.

*Binojeeuk Commission
Natural Resource Commission
Housing Commission
Enrollment Commission
Gaming Commission*

December Food Distribution News

Listings of 3 States serving the Food Distribution Programs; Michigan Counties Served

Bay Mills:
Chippewa Co., Luce Co., Mackinaw Co.
Keweenaw:
Baraga Co., Delta Co., Dickinson Co., Gogebic Co., Houghton Co., Iron Co., Keweenaw Co., Marquette Co., Menominee Co., Ontonagon Co.

Little River:
Benzie Co., Grand Traverse Co., Lake Co., Leelanau Co., Manistee Co., Mason Co., Mecosta Co., Muskegon Co., Nawaygo Co., Oceana Co., Osecola Co., Ottawa Co., Wexford Co.

Little Traverse:
Alcon Co., Alger Co., Alpena Co., Antrim Co., Benzie Co., Charlevoix Co., Cheboygen Co., Chippewa Co., Crawford Co., Delta Co., Emmet Co., Gt. Traverse Co., Iosoco Co., Kalkaska Co., Leelanau Co., Luce Co., Mackinaw Co., Manistee Co., Missaukee Co., Montmorency Co., Ogemaw Co., Oscoda Co., Ostego Co., Presque Isle Co., Roscommon Co., Schoolcraft Co., Wexford Co.

Pokagon:
Allegan Co., Barry Co., Berrien Co., Cass Co., Kalamazoo Co., Kent Co., Van Buren Co. Sault Ste. Marie: Alger Co., Antrim Co., Benzie Co., Charlevoix Co., Cheboygen Co., Chippewa Co., Delta Co., Emmet Co., Gt. Traverse Co., Leelanau Co., Luce Co., Mackinaw Co., Manistee Co., Marquette Co., Schoolcraft Co.

Directors Names and Phone #'s

Leah Jahnke Bay Mills Brimley Mi. Ph # (906)248-2527
Dawn Gauthier Keweenaw L'Anse Mi. Ph # (906)524-7340
Yvonne Theodore Little River Manistee Mi. Ph # (231)398-6715
Robert Linn Pokagon Band Dowagiac Mi. Ph # (616)782-3372
Theresa Boda Little Traverse Petoskey Mi. Ph # (231)348-5951
Anthony Nertoli Sault Ste. Marie Sault Ste. Marie Mi. Ph # (906)635-6076

Wisconsin Counties Served

Bad Rvr:
Ashland Co., Iron Co.,
HCN:
Adams Co., Clark Co., Columbia Co., Crawford Co., Dunn Co., Eau Claire Co., Jackson Co., Juneau Co., LacCross Co., Marathon Co., Monore Co., Portage Co., Sauk Co., Shawano Co., Trempealeau Co., Vernon Co., Wood Co.

LCO:
Bayfield Co., Rusk Co., Sawyer Co., Washburn Co.,
LDF:
Iron Co., Oneida Co., Vilas Co.
MEN:
Langlade Co., Menominee Co., Oconto Co., Shawano Co., Waupaca Co.
Oneida:
Brown Co., Outagamie Co.,

Red Cliff:
Bayfield Co., Douglass Co.
Sokgn:
Florence Co., Forest Co., Langlade Co., Lincoln Co., Marinette Co., Oneida Co.
ST. Croix:
Barron Co., Burnett Co., Polk Co., Washburn Co.
Stckbrdge:
Shawano Co.

Directors Names and Phone #'s

Patric Mayotte Bad River Odanah Wi. Ph # (715)682-7897
Patricia Hall Ho Chunk Black River Falls Ph # (715)284-7461
Arthur Butler Lac Courte Hayward Wi. Ph # (715)634-3677
Betty Graveen Lac DuFlambeau Lac DuFlambeau Wi. Ph # (715)588-3303
Pat Roberts Menominee Keshena Wi. Ph # (715)799-5132
Nori Damrow Oneida Oneida Wi. Ph # (920) 869-1041
Peggy Charette Red Cliff Bayfield Wi. Ph # (715)779-3740
James Polar Sokaogon Crandon Wi. Ph # (715)478-3404
Darren Merrill St. Crix Hertel Wi. Ph # (715)349-2195
Jill Duffek Stockbridge Bowler Wi. Ph # (715)793-4941

Minnesota Counties Served

Bois Forte:
Itasca Co., Koochiching Co., St. Louis Co.
FDL:
Carlton Co., St Louis Co.
G. Portage: Cook Co.
HCN: Huston Co.
Leech Lk: Beltrami Co., Cass Co., Hubbard Co., Itasca Co.
Mille Lacs: Atkin Co., Benton Co., Crow wing Co., Kanabec Co., Mill Lacs Co., Pine Co., Sherburne Co.
Red Lk: Beltrami Co., Clearwater Co., Red Lake Co.
White Earth: Becker Co., Beltrami Co., Clay Co., Clearwater Co., Hubbard Co., Manhonmen Co., Norman Co., Otter Trail co., Polk Co., Red Lake Co., Roseau Co., Wadena Co.

Directors Names and Phone #'s

Mavis Drift Bois Forte Nett Lake Ph # (218)757-3504
Darlene Mostrom Fond Du Lac Cloquet Ph # (218)878-7505
Frances Drouillard Grand portage Grand Portage Ph # (218)475-2277
Patricia Hall Ho Chunk Nation Black River Falls Ph # (715)284-7461
Susie Roy Leech Lake Cass Lake Ph # (218)335-2676
Nora Benjamin Mille Lacs Omamia Ph # (320) 532-7994
Clarence Brown Red Lake Redby Ph # (218)679-3720
Gloria Goodwin White Earth Ph # (218)935-2233

Harvest Potato Casserole

6 cups frozen shredded hash brown potatoes, thawed
1/3 cup chopped onion
2 cups sour cream
1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. ground pepper
1 lb. little smoked sausage links
1 cup shredded cheddar cheese

Combine all ingredients except sausage and cheese. Put in 9x 13 – inch baking pan. Arrange sausage links on top of potato mixture. Cover and bake at 350 F. for 35 minutes or until bubbly. Sprinkle the shredded cheese over the top and bake, uncovered, 5 minutes more.

For information call 1-888-723-8288 & 1-231-398-6715 & 1-231-398-6716
Ask for Yvonne Theodore or George Lawrence Office hours are 8:00 A.M to 5:00 P.M

The Commodity Department would like to say thanks to John Shepard and Mike Sprague and Nicole Ward for helping out on the food shipment we received. Thanks So Much For Your Help.

**ACTION EVERY DAY OF THE WEEK
AT THE RIVER**



Sunday
Pit Party Table Games
4 p.m. – 12 p.m.



Monday
Double Points Slots
8 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Live Polka Band in the Grove
Noon – 4 p.m.



Tuesday
Sweep Up the Cash
2 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Grand Prize Drawing
8 p.m.



Wednesday
Club 55
50% Off Breakfast
Mon - Fri • 6 a.m. – 10 a.m.
Club 55
\$5 In Coin
11 a.m. – 7 p.m.



Thursday
Hourly Cash Drawings
4 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Snowblower Blow Out
8 p.m.



Friday
Free Live Entertainment
in the Grove
9 p.m. – 1 a.m.

Saturday
Free Live Entertainment
in the Grove
9 p.m. – 1 a.m.

The address is www.anishinaabemdaa.com

Anishinaabe Language Hotline

1-877-789-0993

People & professions	Press 1	Clothing	Press 7
Verbs on cooking	Press 2	My family members	Press 8
More verbs	Press 3	Your family members	Press 9
Word opposites	Press 4	His/her family members	Press 10
Verbs	Press 5	Numbers (10-90)	Press 11
Word opposites	Press 6	Commands	Press 12

Clothing/possessives


	My(Niin)	Your(Giin)	His/her(Wiin)
Hat	Nwiikwaananim	Gwiikwaananim	Wiikwaananim
Coat	Nbiikawaaganim	Gbiiskawaaganim	Biiskawaaganim
Shirt	Npabgwayaanim	Gpabgwayaanim	Pabgwayaanim
Pants	Nmiiknotim	Gmiiknootim	Miiknootim
Sock	Nmidaasim	Gmidaasim	Midaasim
Shoe	Nmikizininim	Gmikizininim	Mikizininim

Match the words

Earth	Mtig
Star	Aki
Sweet grass	Ziibi
River	Nbiish
Water	Aankwad
Tree	Nangonh
Cloud	Wiingash

Answers from last month

Mzhaakwat nangwaa	It is a clear day today
Wiigmiwaan waabang	It will rain tomorrow
Giiksinaamgat jiinaagwaa	It was cold yesterday
Wiinimkiikaa waabang	It will thunder tomorrow
Mnagiizh gat nangwaa	It is a good day today
Aabwa nangwaa	It is mild today
Giiawaan jiinaagwaa	It was foggy yesterday
Wiinoodin waabang	It will be windy tomorrow
Zookpo nangwaa	It is snowing today
Gizhaatemgat nangwaa	It is a hot day today
 Kenny Neganigwane Pheasant	 231-933-4406 231-690-3508
 Emails:	 kennypheasant@charter.net pheasant9@aol.com
 Websites:	 www.anishinaabemdaa.com www.anishinaabemowin.org



Start your New Year off with a resolution to come and enjoy our delicious new buffets.

You'll love waking up to our new
Sunday Brunch Buffet
10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.,
beginning January 2, 2005.


Fluffy omelets cooked to order, pancakes topped with butter and hot syrup, fresh pastries, crisp bacon, salads, lunch selections and so much more!

Fill your plate again and again for only
\$13.95

Don't miss the new
Wednesday Night Buffet
5 p.m. to 11 p.m.
beginning January 5, 2005.

You can feast on tender, hand-carved brisket of beef, juicy roast chicken and fried shrimp, to name a few. All for just
\$12.95

So come hungry to Little River
for a delicious New Year!


A subsidiary of the Little River Band of Cherokee Indians



Members Assistance Department

Efficient Energy Tips

There are hundreds of things you can do to make your home more efficient, ranging from simple, free adjustments to major, long-term investments. Which ones you should do in your home will depend on a number of factors—where you live, the size and style of your house, how efficient it already is, which direction it faces, and so on. Nevertheless, let one principle be your guide: go for the “no cost” adjustment first. Often it will be the cheapest, easiest projects that make the biggest dents in your utility bills. Then, with the money you’re saving each month on energy and water, you can tackle further projects, bills or put towards a nice vacation. Some utilities and energy offices offer great information and financing programs to encourage their customers to invest in energy efficiency and renewables as well as budgeting programs to help with utility bills. Ask yours about these types of programs.

Getting Started:

A. Collect your fuel and electric bills for the past 12 months. Divide the total cost of the bills by the square footage of your home—but don’t include garages and unheated basements. Most annual bills range from 60¢ to 90¢ per square foot. If your bills fall in this range, or are even higher, you have many cost-effective opportunities to dramatically reduce your bills. Save this information for future reference.

B. Make a plan of action. The following 19 proven ways to save energy are a useful place to start. Feel free to substitute your own priorities, since you and your family knows your situation.

C. Encourage family members to be energy conscious. The importance of getting family cooperation shouldn’t be underestimated; your family practices and activities can make or break energy saving efforts.

D. After one year complete step A. again and see if there is any difference in the annual utility bills range.

Nineteen Ways to Save Energy in your Home

1. **Adjust your thermostat.** Turn down your home heating thermostat, especially when your home is not occupied. Unfortunately we often see home heating temperatures set at 78 degrees, even in low-income houses. For every degree you lower your heat in the 60-degree to 70-degree range, you’ll save up to 5% on heating costs.

2. **Wear warm clothing in winter.** This lets you comfortably set your thermostat to 68 degrees F. or lower during the day and evening, health permitting. Set the thermostat back to 55-65 degrees F. at night or when leaving home for an extended time saving 5-20 percent of your heating costs. Use a nice comforter on your bed at night.

3. **Wear cool clothing in summer.** Dress as cool as you can to reduce the air-conditioning expense or if possible use mother nature and open the windows.

4. **Eliminate wasted energy.** Turn off lights in unoccupied rooms. Unplug that spare refrigerator in the garage if you don’t truly need it - this seemingly convenient way to keep extra drinks cold adds 10-25% to your electric bill. Turn off kitchen and bathroom ventilating fans after they’ve done their job - these fans can blow out a house-full of heated air if inadvertently left on. Keep your fireplace damper closed unless a fire is burning to prevent up to 8% of your furnace-heated air from going up the chimney.

5. **Reduce the hot water temperature.** Reducing the temperature on your water heater thermostat can decrease heat loss from your tank. You need to keep your water heater at or above 120 degrees to prevent bacteria from building up. Dishwashing may require higher temperature settings such as 130 degrees F. When purchasing a new dishwasher, choose one that heats the wash water to the right temperature internally, this lets you turn down your hot water and still get clean dishes.

6. **Install water flow restrictors in showers and low flow aerators in sink faucets.** These measures can save you money by reducing water use. Modern low flow showers feel just as good as the older high volume showers.

7. **Reduce lighting.** Remove lamps where you have more lighting than you really need, but be sure to maintain safe lighting conditions for work areas. Turn lights off when they’re not in use. Replace outdoor lighting with a motion-detector equipped bulb or fixture.

8. **Replace incandescent light bulbs.** Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent lights. The newer compact fluorescent lights don’t buzz hum or flicker, and they really save money. A compact fluorescent lamp costs between \$4.00 and \$12.00. I have found the least expensive lamps at the local Home Depot.

9. **Seal heating and cooling ductwork.** Leakage from areas such as joints, elbows, and connections can be substantial--as much as 20% to 30%. This is especially costly if the ducts travel through unheated or uncooled spaces such as attics, basements, or crawlspaces. Use duct tape specifically designed for real ductwork not the stuff commonly called “duct tape”.

10. **Wrap the hot water tank with jacket insulation.** This simple, inexpensive measure will reduce standby heat loss from the tank. Be sure to leave the air intake vent uncovered when insulating a gas water heater. Even if you have a newer hot water heater, this will save real money and it doesn’t cost much to do. Savings up to 10% on water heating costs. Note: The higher the “R” value of the insulation jacket the better. The “R” value on my water heater jacket is 19.

11. **Replace air filters regularly and follow maintenance schedules for furnace and air-conditioning equipment.** Replacing your dirty air filter can save money by reducing the amount of electricity needed to run your blower motor (because there is less resistance to airflow with a clean filter). Savings up to 5% of heating costs. This will also help to reduce allergens in the air for family members who have allergy problems.

12. **Install programmable thermostats.** These inexpensive devices, most incorporating modern microprocessor-based electronics, can help optimize your home heating and cooling needs and you won’t need to remember to change thermostat settings.

13. **Clean cooling coils on your refrigerator.** This simple task can improve the efficiency of your refrigerator 15%.

14. **Use appliances efficiently.** Do only full loads when using your dishwasher and clothes washer. Use the cold water setting on your clothes washer when you can. Using cold water reduces your washer’s energy use by 75%. Be sure to clean your clothes dryer’s lint trap after each use. We have been washing a lot more on the cold settings with no noticeable problems. We even reduce the amount of detergent we use depending on how dirty the wash seems. The recommended amount of wash detergent should be considered a maximum amount. In the summer time, hang your clothes out to dry—best energy savings!!

15. **Buy energy-efficient appliances and equipment.** When buying televisions, appliances, computers etc., compare energy requirements. Consider purchasing a flat screen display next time you purchase a computer.

16. **Seal exterior cracks and holes, and ensure tight-fitting windows.** Seemingly small cracks or holes in the building exterior (like walls, windows, doors, ceiling, and floors) can really add up to substantial heating or cooling losses. Install weather stripping and caulking to stop these air leaks. Savings up to 10% on energy costs.

17. **Sun-exposed windows and building walls.** In most areas of the country, direct sunlight streaming through windows at the wrong time of the year can substantially increase your air-conditioning costs. During the cooling season, use shading methods (like window coverings, awnings, trees, and bushes) wherever possible. In the winter time let the sunshine in and feel the warmth!

18. **Repainting the exterior of home.** When it’s time to repaint the exterior of your building, consider using colors that best fit your energy expense. More sunlight will be reflected away from the building to help with cooling expenses or dark colors for heating expenses because dark color absorbs heat, thus lowering energy expenses.

19. **Plug “leaking energy” in electronics.** Many new TVs, VCRs, chargers, computer peripherals and other electronics use electricity even when they are switched “off.” Although these “phantom loads” are only a few watts each, they add up to over 50 watts in a typical home that is consumed all the time. If possible, unplug electronic devices and chargers that have a block-shaped transformer on the plug when they are not in use. For computer scanners, printers and other devices that are plugged into a power strip, simply switch off the power strip after shutting down your computer.



Submitted by Lee A. Iverson
Members Assistance Department

“Speed up the Cleanup!” Great Lakes Regional Collaboration

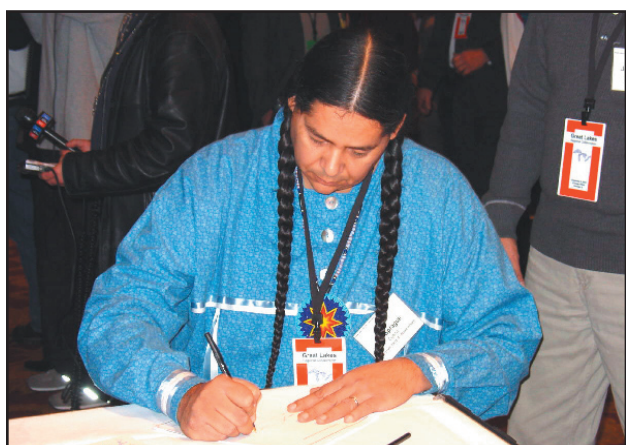
“For the first time...Great Lakes states can speak as one voice for protection and restoration of one of God’s greatest gifts.” With these words the Administrator for the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Michael O. Leavitt summarized the feelings and promises of a momentous meeting held Friday, December 3rd, 2004 at the Chicago Hilton & Towers.



*Michael O. Leavitt
addressing the Summit*

Representatives from the Tribal Nations, 8 states, Federal Cabinet Agencies and associated commissions met to become signatories to a collaborative effort to restore the Great Lakes to health and beauty. As equals in name and hopefully in actuality, the First People who live upon the shores of the Great Lakes participated in the event with a level of prominence seldom seen.

A singer from the Nations offered prayers and sang his Grandmothers’ Song to bless the event in the invocation portion of the carefully orchestrated event.



*LRBOI Ogema, Lee Sprague
signing document*

Ogema Lee Sprague, Water Quality Specialist Stephanie Ogren, GAP Coordinator Frank Beaver and Public Information Director Glenn C. Zaring represented the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. Ogema Sprague was a signatory to the document.

Governors from the 8 states, their delegations and many administrators from the Federal government spoke of the necessity of cleaning up and restoring the Great Lakes. However, it was Congressman Rahm Emmanuel (D-IL) who said the words that captured the mood of many attendees. He said, “We must speed up the cleanup!” He spoke of how as a young man he remembers diving into the dead fish floating on the surface and having to swim out 50 feet to get to clean water. Emmanuel voiced the concern of many, “...who fear that words will be spoken but, again nothing will be done.”

Frank Ettawageshik, Chairman of the Little Traverse Band of Odawa Indians spoke as the Tribal Nations Spokesperson and he corrected the other speakers who spoke about restoring the lakes. He said that the lakes can restore themselves without us. But that the effort of restoration and cleansing was for our own survival.

The afternoon had strategy teams from all the various signatories participate in Issue Area Strategy Teams with topics such as Habitat/Species; Indicators and Information; Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxics Reduction; Invasive Species; Sustainable Development, Coastal Health, Non-point source and Areas of Concern (AOC) Restoration/Sediments.

LRBOI GAP Coordinator Frank Beaver added these comments: “First, it was encouraging to see Tribes at the discussion table as true partners in the protection of the Great Lakes. Tribes have been doing the hard work of environmental protection for many years. By bringing us in at the beginning of the process, as equal partners, Tribes were given the appropriate recognition as valuable participants alongside our State, Federal, and local government partners.

Second, it was really exciting to see Tribes take ownership of their role in the GLRC. This kick-off meeting was the beginning of a year-long planning process. Tribes have signed as participants in all of the issue-area work groups, as well as the steering committee of the GLRC. The Tribes are truly committed to making the GLRC a success.”



*Frank Beaver and Stephnaie Ogren
in front of the podium*

The Great Lakes constitute 20% of the world’s fresh water supply and provide, according to tribal leaders, 30 million people a day with a drink of water. The only other sizable body of fresh water in the world is Lake Baikal in the former Soviet Union.

LRBOI Biologist Stephanie Ogren stated “as a staff member I was encouraged to see so many other Tribal staff attending the afternoon subcommittees. I think that this is where the real work will be and by having Tribal participation on the technical level of the strategic plan that will come from this will be diverse and comprehensive. We have a busy six months ahead of us but we are up to the challenge.”

By Glenn C. Zaring
for Little River Currents

New collaboration with the Onondaga Nation

One of the benefits of attending events such as the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration are the opportunities to network with people of like mind and purpose. One such occurrence at this conference was when Ogema Lee Sprague (LRBOI), Sid Hill, Chief of the Onondaga Indian Nation and Chief Oren Lyons of the Onondaga Nation met to discuss fishing issues and the courts.

The Onondaga are now facing some of the same fishing issues that have taken so much of our tribe’s attention, time and resources. The chiefs discussed some of these issues and agreed to have our legal departments share information which could assist the Onondaga with this fight.

It was agreed that the issues which are primarily addressed by CORA have parallels north of the border. “We are glad to be of assistance to our brothers from Canada,” said Ogema Sprague.

By Glenn C. Zaring for *Little River Currents*

Gaá Čhíng Ziíbi Daáwaá Anířhinaábek

LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS ELECTION BOARD

375 River Street

Manistee, MI 49660

(231) 723-8288

NAÁNGWÁ:

DATE: 12/8/04

AÁNIÍ PIÍřH EPIÍDEK:

TO: All Tribal Members

BINJÍBIDEK:

FROM: Election Board

MAÁNDA NJÍ:

SUBJECT:

Frequently Asked Questions

about the 2005 Election

Memorandum

The Election Board has informally received some questions from Tribal Members about the 2005 General Election. We are pleased to provide these answers.

✓

Question 1: Why are Tribal Members only electing one member of the Tribal Judiciary in 2005?

Answer: Members of the Tribal Court and Tribal Court of Appeals serve fixed terms. None of those terms expire in 2005. One vacancy was created on the Tribal Court of Appeals as a result of a resignation. Therefore, there is one vacancy on the Tribal Court of Appeals in 2005. Under the April 26, 2004 Amendments to the Tribal Constitution, this vacancy will be filled through the General Election.

✓

Question 2: If I live in the Nine-County District, what positions will I be voting for in 2005?

Answer: Tribal members living in the Nine-County District will vote for candidates to fill three Nine-County seats on Tribal Council, one At-Large seat on Tribal Council, one seat on the Tribal Court of Appeals, and five seats on the Election Board. The Nine County District covers Kent, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Ottawa, and Wexford Counties.

✓

Question 3: If I live in the Outlying District, what positions will I be voting for in 2005?

Answer: Tribal members living in the Outlying District will vote for candidates to fill one Outlying seat on Tribal Council, one At-Large seat on Tribal Council, one seat on the Tribal Court of Appeals, and five seats on the Election Board. The Outlying District covers all Tribal Members living outside the Nine County District.

✓

Question 4: Why do Tribal Members in the Outlying District only get to vote for two seats on Tribal Council (one Outlying and the At-Large) while Tribal Members in the Nine-County District get to vote for four seats on Tribal Council (three Nine-County and the At-Large)?

Answer: Six members of Tribal Council represent the Nine-County District, two represent the At-Large District, and one represents the Outlying District. These numbers are set by the Tribal Constitution; not the Election Board. The seats up for election in 2005 are three in the Nine-County District, one in the At-Large District, and one in the Outlying District.

COMMITTEE VACANCIES

The Tribal Council announces two vacancies on the Cultural Preservation Committee. Tribal Members that are interested in serving on this Committee should send letters of interest to:

Cultural Preservation
C/o Israel Stone-Liaison
Tribal Council
375 River Street
Manistee, MI 49660

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD CLOSING FOR ORDINANCES

The Tribal Council posted amendments to three ordinances as follows:

Gaming Ordinance
- Posted November 22, 2004

Gaming Commission Ordinance
- Posted November 22, 2004

Tribal Seal Ordinance
- Posted November 22, 2004

The public comment period for the proposed amendments to the ordinances ends December 21, 2004.

To access the ordinances, please visit the Tribe's website, lrboi.com, and click on Tribal Council: Member Information and updates. The proposed amendments are also posted at the Little River Band Community Center, Little River Band Downtown Building, Little River Band Heath

Center, and Little River Band Tribal Office Building. Members may provide comment by fax, email or letter. Following closure of the public comment period, any comments received will be reviewed and included in the final draft, and a final work session will be scheduled. After the final work session, the ordinances will be placed on the Tribal Council agenda for action.

- 1-888-723-8288

Send your article submissions and story notices to edrouin@lrboi.com

HISTORIC MEETING OF ANISHIAABEK NATIONS-GREAT LAKES WATER ACCORD

“Imagine at some point in our lifetime, being able to take a tour of the shipwrecks at the bottom of our Great Lakes, in a bus” This daunting yet increasingly plausible scenario is how Frank Ettawageshik, Little Traverse Bay Band Tribal Chairperson and event coordinator opened the First Annual Indigenous Great Lakes Water Resources Meeting that was hosted on November 22nd and 23rd 2004 at the Kewadin Hotel Convention Center in Sault Ste Marie, Michigan.



Tribal Ogema Lee Sprague signs the water accord with his son Nimkiins.

Tribal Chiefs and Chairpersons from the northern hemisphere of the Americas were called upon to attend this two-day accord that was put together in a mere 5 weeks. Despite the short notice, 75 Tribes and First Nations residing in their ancestral homelands within the United States and Canada saw fit to attend this “Call-to-Action” to put their signatures to paper in support of the accord, which states:

“Our Ancestors have inhabited the Great Lakes Basin since time immemorial, long before the current political boundaries were drawn. Our Spiritual and Cultural connections to our Mother Earth are manifest by our willingness to embrace the responsibility of protecting and preserving the land and Waters.

Traditional Teachings and modern science combine to strengthen our historical understanding that Water is the life-blood of our Mother Earth. Ceremonial Teachings are reminders of our heritage, they are practices of our current peoples, and they are treasured gifts that we hand to our children.

When considering matters of great importance, we are taught to think beyond the current generation. We also are taught that each of us is someone’s seventh generation. We must continually ask ourselves what we are leaving for a future seventh generation.

We understand that the whole earth is an interconnected ecosystem. The health of any one part affects the health and well being of the whole. It is our Spiritual and Cultural responsibility to protect our local lands and Waters in order to help protect the whole of Mother Earth.

Tribes and First Nations have observed with a growing interest, that the Great Lakes Basin of governments of the United States and Canada have begun to share our concern about the preservation of the quantity of the Great Lakes Waters.

The eight States and two Provinces of the Great Lakes Basin entered into the 1985 Great Lakes Charter, Annex 2001, and have drafted an Interstate Compact and International Agreement to implement the provisions of Annex 2001. These agreements, however, make no provisions for including Tribes and First Nations as governments with rights and responsibilities regarding Great Lakes Waters. These agreements also assert that only the States and Provinces have governmental responsibility within the Great Lakes Basin.



Pamela Medahko singing the Water Accord.

Through International treaties and court actions, however, Tribes and First Nations continue to exercise Cultural and Spiritual rights of self-determination and property rights within Traditional Territories for our peoples and Nations. Tribal and First Nation governments, like all governments, have the duty to protect the interests and future rights of our peoples. Since we have recognized rights and we are not political subdivisions of the States or Provinces, the assertion that the States and Provinces own and have the sole responsibility to protect the waters, is flawed.

Thus, the efforts of the States and Provinces to protect the Waters of the Great Lakes Basin are flawed because these efforts do not include the direct participation of the governments of the Tribes

and First Nations. This fundamental flaw endangers the interests of all of the inhabitants of the Great Lakes Basin and, ultimately, because of the interconnectedness of the worldwide ecosystem, endangers the interests of the entire earth.

It is thus our right, and our responsibility and our duty to insist that no plan to protect and preserve the Great Lakes Waters moves forward without the equal highest-level participation of Tribal and First Nation governments with the governments of the United States and Canada. Merely consulting with Tribes and First Nations is not adequate; full participation must be achieved.

By this accord signed on November 23, 2004 at Sault Ste Marie, Michigan, the Tribes and the First Nations of the Great Lakes Basin do hereby demand that our rights and sovereignty be respected, that any governmental effort to protect and preserve the Waters of the Great Lakes Basin include full participation by Tribes and First Nations, and we also hereby pledge that we share the interest and concerns about the future of the Great Lakes Waters, further pledging to work together with each other and with the other governments in the Great Lakes Basin to secure a healthy future for the Great Lakes”

The Event was graced by many profound and at times emotional words from the leaders who were in attendance. Little River Band government officials present were: Councilor, Pamela Medahko; Ogema, Lee Sprague; Councilor, Janine Sam and Natural Resource Chairperson, Jimmie Mitchell. Tribal Council and the Ogema wish to thank Jimmy Mitchell for recording this historic event.



Little River Tribal Counsel Member Janine Sam and Little Traverse Bay Bands of Ottawa Indians Chairman, Frank Ettawageshik present a Hudson Bay Blanket to Lead Grandmother Water Walker Josephine Mandamin.

SEE RELATED STORY “SPEED UP THE CLEANUP” ON PAGE 9.



Jackie “Red Woman” Lindow

Jackie Lindow, better known as Jackie “Red Woman”, is an artist and storyteller from the Ottawa Indian community. She was given this name

17 years ago and says she is proud to have a name that is given to “someone who has a creative and spiritual gift.” Her stories are based on her Native American heritage, and were passed down from one generation to the next through her family history.

As one listens to these stories, the faces and personalities of Native American history come alive. Her own life experiences help her to better understand some of the trials faced by some native people such as alcohol abuse and abusive relationships. She also gives teachings as to the loss of culture and traditional life suffered by American Natives; “When you take a people away from their culture, you take their language, there becomes a crack in the fabric of that person. We don’t think that when we were hurt we pass down those hurts from one generation to another.” She talks about her mother’s birth, and of her own birth. She says that alcohol was not taken in by the Natives willingly, that the “sick water” was introduced against their will and was called “the mind changer”.

Jackie Lindow is also active in drug and alcohol recovery programs, helping people overcome these addictions through her stories. She also builds dream catchers.

Her upcoming radio appearance is punctuated with songs by women signers. It will be broadcasted on the program “Passages” on United Methodist Communications radio program.

This will start in November 2004 for an entire year. Passages is a 30-year, award-winning, radio-program broadcast on over 700 radio stations here in the US, as well as armed forces radio stations all over the globe. “My story is a tribute to my Grandmother’s legacy and Native American survival across Indian country. The program features women of contemporary music who have inspired other women for many years.” The program will be showcased on www.passages.org during November 2004. In the spirit of the message, the radio show will be available for no cost on auto-tape or CD. When asked by WWEN Connection what her mission statement is Jackie answered;

“To my people and our culture, I will retain a strong interest and commitment to bring good will to each heart. I will give freely of my gifts and talents to protect and preserve my culture. I will continue to learn at the feet of my elders our language, tradition and culture. I will learn through education how to expand any and all opportunities for our people. With my life I will walk the Red Road in a way that honors those who came before me. I will honor those with whom I walk today and will be remembered with honor by the Seventh generation yet to be. My true passions are within.”

To obtain a free copy of the program, please contact one of the following:

Web site: www.passages.org

Telephone:

1-712-625-1118 or

1-800-476-7766 or

1-615-742-5158

Address:

United Methodist Communications

P.O. Box 320

Nashville, TN 37202-0320

Please specify the name of the radio program when ordering: Jackie Redwoman.

This article was written by Emily Drouin, Public Information Specialist, and is based on information provided by Jackie Lindow.

Sweep Up the Cash!

Every Tuesday in January!

Would an extra \$500 start your New Year off right? Then Little River Casino is the place to be!

Between 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.:
You could win a vacuum, cash or other great prizes. Simply swipe your Player's Club card at any of our kiosks and win instantly.

At 8 p.m.:
One lucky player will be chosen to win

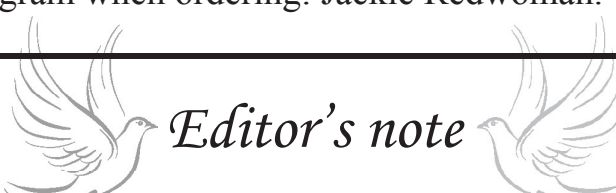
\$500 in Cash

(No one ever found this much money vacuuming under the sofa cushions.)

Join the fun every Tuesday at Little River. You could really clean up!

LITTLE RIVER CASINO
HISTORIC NASHVILLE
RESORT
An extension of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians

Must be at least 21 years old. Management reserves the right to change or cancel this promotion at any time. Employees of LRCS and promotional agencies, their immediate family and members of their household are exempt from participation. Must be a Player's Club member. Must be present to win. Valid only at Little River Casino Resort.



Editor's note

This is now the third Currents the Public Information Department has published since I came to work here at LRBOI. It has been a rollercoaster ride! Great angst, many hectic moments, a great time! I have learnt a lot! Met wonderful new people and... made a few mistakes. (I'm sorry about the “background” picture that turned... Prominent.) There is still work to do, but we're getting better! I want to know what you think. How are we doing? What can we do to make this paper your paper? You can reach me by writing your comments on a submission coupon and mailing it, or you can call me 1.888.398.6840

- Emily Drouin, Public Information Specialist, LRBOI

CORRECTION: We want to give credit to **Mark Knee** for the article on Wild Rice in the November issue, it was not written by Mark Dougher.

“Perfection is achieved, not when there is nothing more to add, but when there is nothing left to take away.”

- Antoine de Saint Exupery

“Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off your goal.”

- Henry Ford (1863-1947)

Veteran's Day Ceremony



As a way of remembering the contribution of the Little River Band Native American soldiers, the Warrior Society organized a flag raising ceremony to dedicate a new flag pole. The ceremony was held on November 11th at 1100 hours, which was exactly when they declared Armistice Day. The ceremony began with an opening prayer and by welcoming those that were in attendance.

Jerry Ramsey performed a pipe ceremony which was followed by the raising of the flag accompanied by drummers playing the flag song. Roger and Mike, members of the Veterans group "Rolling Thunder" from Grand Rapids came and presented our Veterans with a POW flag. A drummer then played the Veteran's Honor Song.

The group headed inside for a meal, after which the Ogema, Lee Sprague presented the Warrior Society with a 30/40 Krag rifle that was used in the Spanish-American War by Teddy Roosevelt's Roughriders. The rifle is more than 100 years old. He also gave each one of the Veterans a bullet that was used in this gun.

"It was a great honor to receive this gift, it's part of our history." Says Al Medacco, we probably had some American Indians involved in that war. We have veterans in this tribe from almost every conflict in American History. Right now we have five WWII Veterans, and about 130 registered veterans.

"We have more Veterans in the tribe than are in the Warrior Society, but we don't have documentation that would allow us to, by bylaws, officially recognize them."

The Warrior Society now has two flag poles and displays the Warrior flag as well as a POW flag, the American Flag is right next to The Tribal Veterans Flag.

The following is the address given by Al Medacco during the ceremony;

"It does my heart proud to see so many friends and relatives here today. I would like to welcome all the veterans that have come to help us dedicate our flag pole. I thank them for protecting us and our country and to welcome them home... Welcome.

We are gathered here today to dedicate the Warrior Society flag pole which honors all veterans and the flag that they fought under. The American Indian has always put defending our families and our country first. We have served in the military in every conflict that this Country has been involved in as we still consider this our Country. I call the veterans my Uncle as this is a title, which in our tradition, shows honor and respect for they are the ones who are the protectors of our people. (Pipe ceremony)

I would like to read something that a friend gave to me, who is a Purple Heart veteran;

WE ARE NOT HEROES

"We were just in the wrong place at the wrong time. We may have lost limbs, been gut-shot, lost our sight, lost our hearing, have a plate in our head or even stuck in a wheelchair, but we are not heroes. The

real heroes are the ones that left this Earth to be with God very early in life. They never had a chance to get married, to hold their new born baby, to help teach them to walk, to change a wet or dirty diaper. Never had a chance to watch them grow up, to go to little league, watch them go to high school and college. Watch them get married and then become a grand parent. Yes, those are the heroes. We have pain, sometimes very much of it, but we are still here. They have gone to a better place, but much too soon. So if you go to a cemetery and see a stone that says "Killed in action", stop and say thanks to one that gave up so much so that we can have so much."



A special thanks to Bea Law for her wonderful job on the Veteran's Jackets and also to Kathleen Block who made a lot of things possible. Megwetch."

- Al Medacco

Seniors invited to apply for summer fishery mentoring program

MARQUETTE — Senior high school students are invited to apply for a summer 2005 summer fisheries biology mentorship at the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Station in Marquette, Mich.

This summer mentoring program, the Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program, is sponsored by the American Fisheries Society. The goal of the program is to stimulate the interest in careers in fisheries science and management among groups underrepresented in the fisheries professions. So, preference will be given to qualified women and minority students.

Students who are selected will work with Jessica Mistak, senior fisheries biologist with the Michigan DNR, for 8 weeks. Duties will include measurement of stream habitat variables, fish sampling, and participation in fish production efforts. The student will be expected to provide their own transportation to and from Marquette. A scholarship of \$3,000 will be awarded to the student for participation in the program.

Please note that although the Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program is open to sophomore, junior and senior level students, Mistak is restricted to recruiting students who will be 18 years of age by June 1, 2005, due to Michigan child labor laws.

Interested students should contact Jessica Mistak at the MDNR Fisheries Station, 484 Cherry Creek Rd., Marquette MI 49855, 906-249-1611, ext. 308, mistakjl@michigan.gov.

For more information about the Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program itself, see <http://www.fisheries.org/html/hutton/student-guide.shtml>.

Tax Agreement Area

The tax agreement between the State of Michigan and the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians defines a “Resident Tribal Member” as a Tribal Member whose principal place of residence is located within the Agreement Area. The Agreement Area includes both the 1836 Reservation (Manistee Reservation) and the 1855 Reservation (Custer and Eden Townships in Mason County).

The Agreement Area per the tax agreement is:

- The portion of Manistee County that includes:

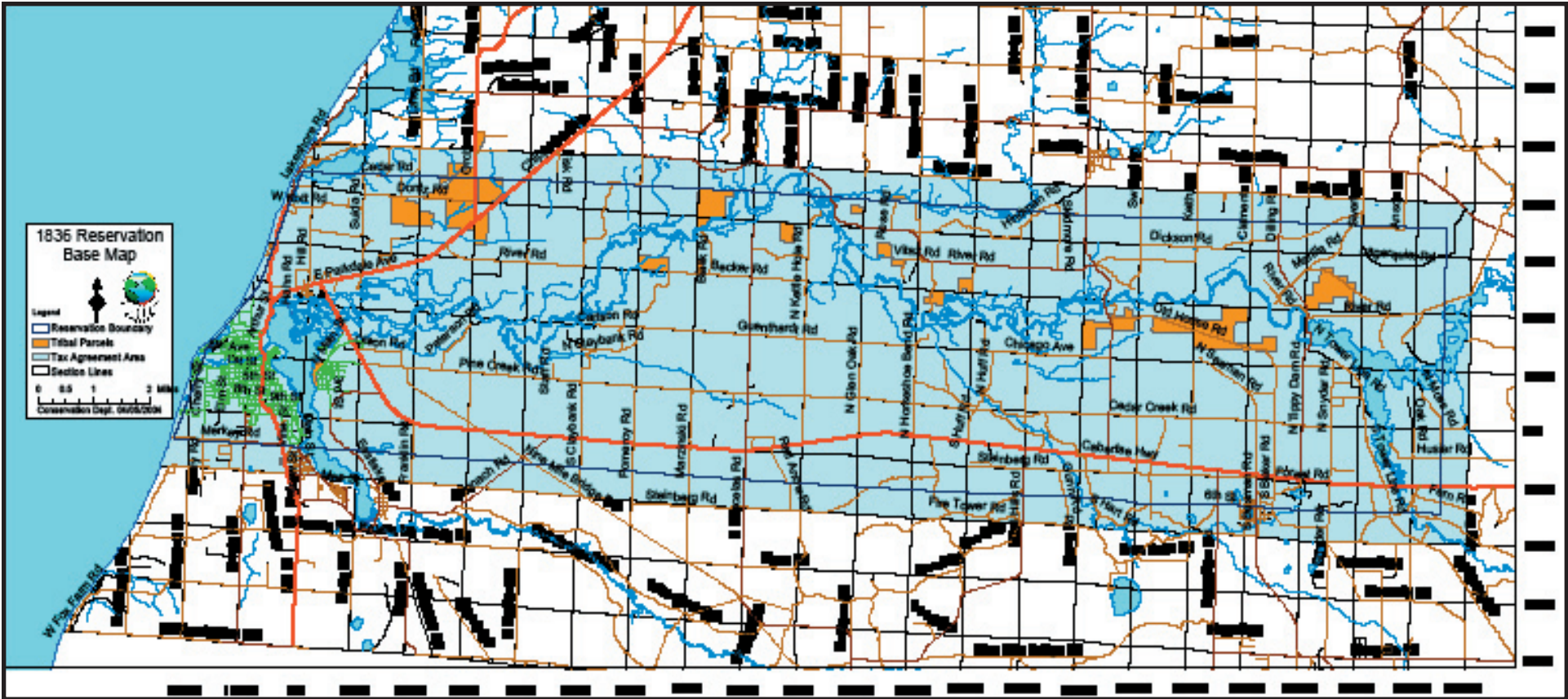
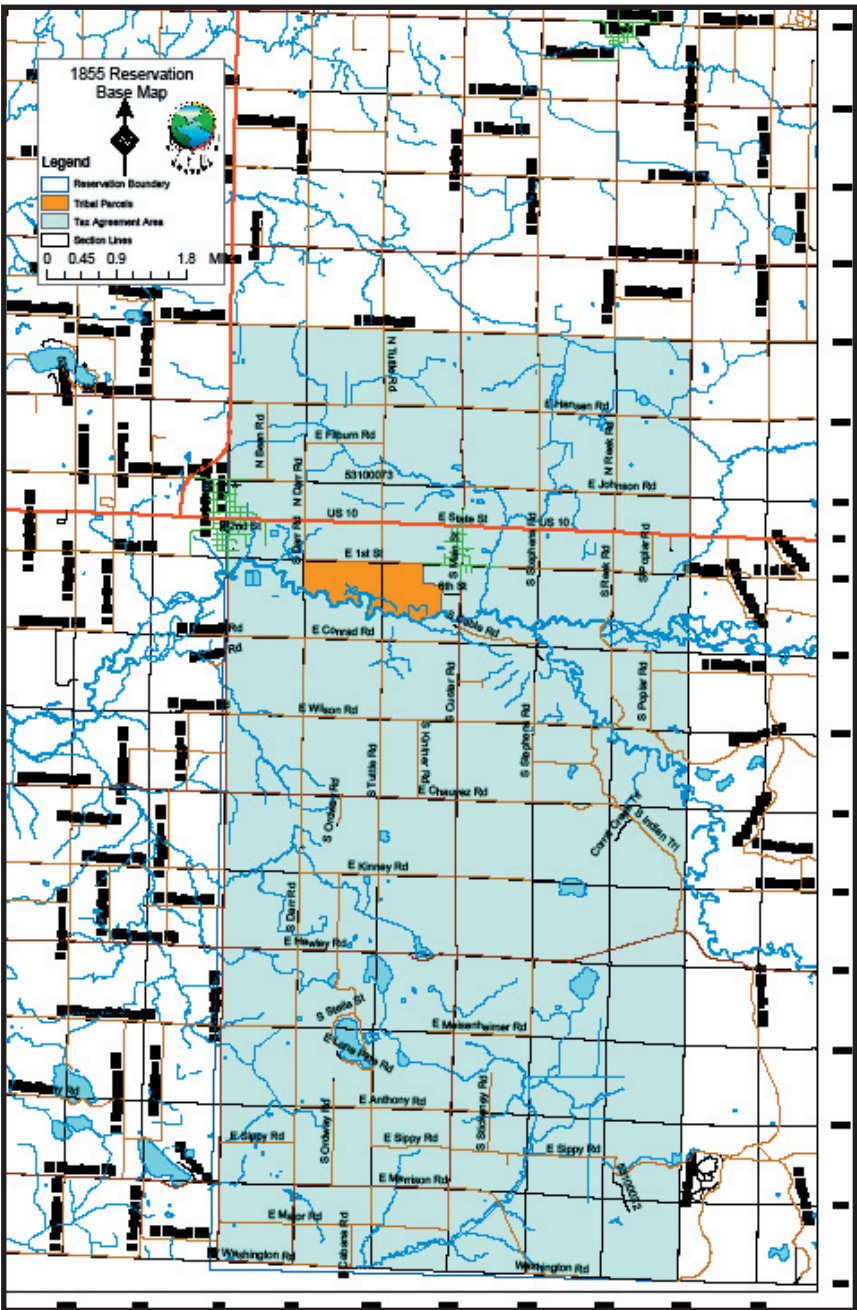
Survey sections 24, 25, 35, and 36 in T22N, R17W; survey sections 19-36 in T22N, R16W; survey sections 19-36 in T22N, R15W; survey sections 19-36 in T22N, R14W; survey sections 19-21 and 28-33 in T22N, R13W; survey sections 1-3 and 10-15 in T21N, R17W; survey sections 1-18 in T21N, R16W; survey sections 1-18 in T21N, R15W; survey sections 1-18 in T21N, R14W; and survey sections 4-9 and 16-18 in T21N, R13W; and

- The portion of Mason County that includes:

T18N, R16W; and T17N, R16W.

If you have any questions about your Residency status, please contact:

Barb Czarnecki
Tax Officer
Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
375 River Street, 2nd Floor
Manistee, MI 49660
Ph: 231-723-8288 Ext. 6874



Tax agreement area maps and residency forms have been mailed to all head of household Tribal members. If you live within the tax agreement area, complete the Residency Form and return it to the Tax Office by December 15, 2004.

Additional residency forms are available at the Tax Office. Phone 231-723-8288 ext. 6874.

Dear Resident Tribal Members (RTM),

The Tax Season will soon be here. Thanks to the Tribe's Tax Agreement with the State of Michigan, many Resident Tribal Members will receive extra tax benefits this year. All RTM non-business income is exempt from Michigan Income taxes plus RTMs will also receive an annual sales tax credit.

Only tribal members who have RTM status are exempt from Michigan non-business income taxes and will also receive the Resident Tribal Member Annual Sales Tax Credit. RTM status is established on the 1st day of the month after a tribal member establishes his/her residence in the Agreement Area and notifies the Enrollment Office and Tax Office of their change in address. Tribal members who resided within the 1836 or 1855 Reservations since at least January 1, 2004, as verified by the Enrollment Office, may be eligible for exemption from Michigan non-business income taxes for the entire year. You should contact the Tax Officer if you have questions concerning the period during which you can claim exemption from, and/or receive refunds of, Michigan non-business income taxes. Please note that beginning with the 2005 tax year, RTM status will be established on the 1st day of the month after the Tribe has received the Tribal member's Residency Form along with all required documentation.

Michigan Income Tax

Resident Tribal Members are exempted from Michigan income tax on all non-business income including but not limited to:

1. All income derived from wages are exempt whether the wages are earned within the Agreement Area or outside of the Agreement Area;
2. All interest and passive dividends are exempt;

3. All rents and royalties derived from real property located within the Agreement Area are exempt;
4. All rents and royalties derived from tangible personal property, to the extent the personal property is utilized within the Agreement Area, are exempt;
5. Capital gains from the sale or exchange of real property located within the Agreement Area are exempt;
6. Capital gains from the sale or exchange of tangible personal property which is located within the Agreement Area at the time of the sale are exempt;
7. Capital gains from the sale or exchange of intangible personal property are exempt;
8. All pension income and benefits including, but not limited to, 401(k), IRA, defined contribution plan, and defined benefit plan payments are exempt;
9. All per capita payments by the Tribe to Resident Tribal Members are exempt without regard to the source of payment; and
10. All gaming winnings are exempt.

Please be aware that a Michigan tax return must be filed in accordance with the provisions of Section IX (A) of the Tax Agreement. If you have any questions regarding the filing of you MI-1040 or related forms, please contact the Michigan Department of Treasury Customer Contact Division at 1.800.827.4000.

Resident Tribal Member
Annual Sales Tax Credit

The Resident Tribal Member Annual Sales Tax Credit was designed to cover any items not listed under the Tribal Certificate of Exemption form. Items covered by the Tribal Certificate of Exemption form are vehicles, mobile or module home, affixation to real estate, and treaty fishing items. The Resident Tribal Member Annual Sales Tax Credit is based on a percent-

age of a modified federal Adjusted Gross Income. The Sales Tax Credit is 0.9% (.009) times the Resident Tribal Member's Modified AGI. Modified AGI is capped at \$80,000 per RTM (left over cap from one RTM spouse cannot be carried over to the other RTM spouse). The Resident Tribal Member Annual Sales Tax Credit form (4013) must be filed with the MI 1040 Income tax return.

Example: A married couple where both spouses are RTMs with a Modified AGI \$200,000 (\$50,000 RTM 1 and \$150,000 RTM 2) would receive a Tax Credit of \$1,170 ($50,000 + 80,000 \times .009 = \$1,170$). Example: A married couple where both spouses are RTMs with a Modified AGI of \$40,000 (\$20,000 RTM 1 and \$20,000 RTM 2) would receive a Tax Credit of \$360 ($(20,000 + 20,000) \times .009 = \360).

Example: A single Resident Tribal Member with a Modified AGI of \$30,000 would receive a Tax Credit of \$270 ($30,000 \times .009 = \270).

Please note that the Annual Sales Tax Credit is only available for that portion of the year that you have Resident Tribal Member status and the Tribe has an implemented Tax Agreement with the State of Michigan. The above examples are for illustration purposes only and assume RTM status and implemented tax agreement for the entire year. The Tax Agreement between the Little River Band and the State of Michigan was implemented April 1, 2004.

For individual tax questions, please consult a tax accountant/preparer professional.

The LRBOI Tax Agreement can be viewed on the State of Michigan government web site at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/LTRB_Agreement_5819-1_with_appendix_88260_7.pdf. Note: The tax agreement does not cover property taxes.

Barb Czarnecki
Tax Officer, LRBOI

Tax Information Seminar

A tax seminar for Tribal Members is being planned for late January. Tentative plans include a question and answer session on the new Tax Agreement between the Tribe and the State of Michigan.

For more details, check the January issue of Little River Currents or call the tax officer at 231-723-8288 ext. 6874.

“BILLY” SHEDS LIGHT ON A HARSH REALITY - EDITOR CORRECTION

De-ba-jeh-mu-jig brought “Billy” to Manistee High School to give us an important message; suicide is a very real part of today’s teen lives. The play, “Billy”, puts this difficult topic on the table and does a great job of pointing out the reasons as well as the solutions surrounding suicide. The theatre group *De-ba-jeh-mu-jig* from Manitoulin Island in Ontario gave a superb rendition of the play written by Chris Craddock of Azimuth Theatre in Edmonton, Alberta.

Billy, a young Native American is given a chance (mid-way between life and death) to re-think his attempted suicide. The characters go through a series of reasons *Billy* has to live, while *Billy* throws his hardships back at them. The play considers not only the factors contributing to teen depression and the shortcomings of the resources that surround them, but also the responsibilities that empower an individual to help him/herself.

“It (the play) was put through our 4Direction Creation Process so that the piece would better reflect an Anishinaabeg world view and sensibility. Humour is seen as a healing process among Native people, and the elements of humour in this show help in raising awareness around this very important issue.”(from the *De-ba-jeh-mu-jig* web site www.debaj.ca)

It seems the play had a positive effect on the students of Manistee High. Their reaction during the play on Tuesday Nov. 2 reflected the humor in the script... but the audience fell to a hush when *Billy* expressed his anguish. *De-ba-jeh-mu-jig* understands that suicide is a thought that crosses teen minds, if not as a consideration, as a difficult realization of mortality. These are years that shape an individual’s understanding of his/her value in society, it also is a time to put

one’s self-worth in perspective. It can be a tough adjustment to make. The play hopes to be a catalyst for discussion and awareness, bringing our communities to take steps to save our young ones.

As per the 2001 statistics published by National Vital Statistics Vol. 52, No. 9, the percentage of deaths by suicide in males in American Indians from age 15 to 24 was 30.8 (per 100,000) in 1995. This number is down from 49.1 (per 100,000) in 1990. For the age group 25 to 44 the stats are 27.8 (1990) and 29.1 (1995). These are the highest in the overall American population. This is a serious issue that we cannot simply avoid.

After the performance the *De-ba-jeh-mu-jig* troupe held a workshop on suicide. They are all trained in “Suicide A.S.I.S.T.” which gives them skills “to deal appropriately and sensitively with disclosures which may arise from the audience members as a result of the issues dealt with in the performance” (quote from their website).

The Little River Currents would like to issue a correction to last month’s article on De-ba-jeh-mu-jig. I listed the Family Services Department and did not mention the great work that Bedabin (Behavioral Health) did in making it possible for the play to be presented here in Manistee. Martha Kase, Bedabin’s Behavioral Health Supervisor and Kenny Pheasant, their Language Coordinator were responsible for organizing the event and making it possible. Kenny Pheasant took it upon himself to find other area tribes interested in a presentation of the play to make it worth while for De-ba-jeh-mu-jig to appear here. Bedabin arranged the details of their stay and

was even able to re-schedule their appearance at the Casino when they were delayed at the Border. Bedabin staff, including Jason Crawford, Julie Wolf and Don Chartier organized a dinner for the troupe and thanked them by awarding the stage manager a trophy to honor their efforts and thank them for bringing their enlightening message to our community. Each member of their group also received a t-shirt, a language CD and a pin to show our appreciation.

Bedabin is proud to note that there were some 30 participants in the workshop at Manistee High School after the play. Bedabin also arranged to have the necessary contact information available for local community resources after the performance at the Casino.

Bedabin was able to get permission to record the play in order to make it accessible to local programs on suicide prevention.



Mnajaadaanaanik gdabinojiinhminaanik (“Let’s Honor Our Children”)

The 2nd Annual Let’s Honor Our Children is in it’s beginning stages. We are currently looking for Tribal community and employee support in order to bring this event to the Membership.

Anyone interested in participating in the planning of this event, please contact:

July Wolfe at 231-398-6632 or Joshua Wilson at 231-794-9891.

Write your dedication text out completely, for example: "Happy 60th Anniversary, Aunt Mary and Uncle Harry, April 1, 2004. From your family and friends." Dedications are printed EXACTLY as printed in the box below.

December Issue - Part 4 of 4 Reservation History Series

The Restoration Era (1889 - 1994)

Restoration, 1889-Present

As was reported in Part 3 of this Reservation History Series, despite the fact that the 1855 Treaty was intended to provide the Grand River Ottawa with permanent Reservation homelands, many officials representing the United States government responsible for protecting the Grand River Reservations actively assisted non-Indians in taking lands reserved for the Grand River people. Nearly two-thirds of the land within the Grand River Ottawa Reservations was transferred to non-Indian by 1880. With few exceptions, federal officials completely abandoned their responsibilities to our Grand River Ottawa relatives. Federal officials also adopted a new interpretation of the 1855 Treaty that considered the Atribal status of the Ottawa's governments as Adissolved - meaning, we were no longer Asovereigns but simply Indian citizens of Michigan.

Consistent with this view, the federal government closed the Michigan Indian Agency in 1889. This left the Ottawas to the mercy of those who wished to exploit them or their remaining property. As many current Little River Tribal members know, our Grandparents and Great-grandparents did not leave the Grand River Reservations. They simply crowded onto the few remaining parcels with other families. Some lived in settlements on homestead lands just outside the Reservation that had been obtained under one of the "remedial" homestead laws described in Part 3. Other families joined relatives who still lived in settlements on the 1836 Manistee Reservation.

A special census of Michigan Indians conducted in 1890 confirmed that Grand River Ottawa's continued to exist as distinct social, political and cultural communities on the Reservations. Few Ottawa people spoke English. Most Ottawa people continued to make their living by trapping, hunting, fishing and gathering berries/roots from their Reservations and throughout 1836 Ceded lands.

Despite the federal government's attempt to write-off the "tribal status" and treaty obligations to the Ottawa, Ottawa leaders refused to let the federal government disregard its commitments. Ottawa leaders from various Reservation communities assisted individual Band members in presenting claims to federal officials to seek recovery of lands that had been denied or taken from members. Grand River Ottawa leaders also presented petitions demanding the United States honor its Treaty-based obligations to provide a Reservation homeland and financial assistance to their people. Similar petitions were filed by leaders from Little Traverse and Grand Traverse communities.

A lawsuit against the federal government to recover annuity and trust fund money wrongly denied the Ottawa Bands under the 1855 Treaty eventually resulted in a judgment against the United States in 1905. In order to pay this claim to the descendants of the 1855 Treaty signatories, the federal government commissioned a new census of the Michigan Ottawa. Federal officials believed that census would identify very few Ottawa descendants.

Instead, the Special Agent assigned to prepare the roll of Grand River Ottawa found communities of Ottawa Bands living on and near the Reservations. Durant found substantial portions of Grand River Ottawa living in towns they had built on and near their Reservations contrary to the federal government's assumption that Grand River Ottawa Bands had been "dissolved" and assimilated into Michigan society. They continued to recognize traditional chiefs and continued to live as a culturally-distinct people. Nearly 700 (25% of the total population) Grand River Ottawa people still resided on or near the 1836 Reservation and the Mason County portion of the 1855 Reservation. In addition to providing the "base roll" that is used today by the Little River Band and other Michigan Ottawa/Chippewa Bands, Durant's Roll also confirmed that official census numbers grossly undercounted the number of Ottawa people living on and near their Reservations.

Throughout the 20th Century, Grand River Ottawa leaders continued to pursue claims for both land and money due them. Among the most prominent leaders during the early 20th Century were Sampson Robinson, Jacob Walker Cobmoosa and Enos Pego. In 1910, Sampson Robinson and other Reservation community leaders (William [Paquotush] Sam and William Micko) organized a committee and hired attorneys to pursue claims for land and money.

At the same time, Jacob Walker Cobmoosa and Henry Pego were organizing other Grand River communities and formed a coalition with other Ottawa leaders from the Grand Traverse and Little Traverse Reservations to pursue financial and other claims under their treaties. This group held a joint council on the Manistee Reservation in 1917 to discuss their plans. These community leaders continued the practice of previous Grand River Ottawa communities of selecting headmen and speakers to represent their communities and to meet with United States officials in Washington, D.C. on a government-to-government basis.

Sampson Robinson and Jacob Walker Cobmoosa shared the goal of pursuing land claims, focusing on seeking compensation from the United States for lands illegally taken from their Bands. Cobmoosa obtained a power of attorney from 358 Ottawa people authorizing him to pursue land and other claims against the federal government. The names of the signers on Cobmoosa's document include a number of Little River Ottawa families:

Bailey, Battice, Genereau, Kelsey, Koon, Lewis, Medacco, Memberto, Pego, Pete, Peters, Sam, Theodore, and Wabindato.

During the 1920's, Cobmoosa and Robinson successfully lobbied Congress for introduction of legislation that would have allowed the Ottawas to pursue their land and money claims. Federal officials attempted to argue that Cobmoosa and Robinson could not represent the interests of the Grand River Ottawa because the Bands' status had been "dissolved" by the 1855 Treaty. Commissioner of Indian Affairs Cato Sells opposed the legislation arguing that: "By the 5th Article of said Treaty the Indians tribal organization was dissolved and the Indians in effect agreed to become citizens. There are no funds available for disbursement to them and the Government has no land in trust for the tribe or any members thereof." (emphasis added) Although the United States Senate passed the legislation, the bill died due to lack of support by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. This lack of support from the Indian Affairs office would continue to hinder the efforts of Grand River Ottawa leaders until September 1994.

Despite the setback in 1917, Jacob Walker Cobmoosa returned from Washington, D.C. to Michigan and continued his work on behalf of the Grand River Ottawa. Beginning in 1922, Cobmoosa began work to make a detailed list of all of the claims that individual Grand River Band members had relating to their lands. Cobmoosa continued to write letters to the federal government outlining the claims of the Grand River Ottawa and asking that lands be purchased for the Band and Band members. There is no indication that any of the claims identified by Cobmoosa received any consideration by federal officials; however, Cobmoosa's efforts inspired a new generation of Ottawa leaders who would later successfully bring financial claims against the United States on behalf of the Grand River Band Descendant's Committee and the Northern Michigan Ottawa Association.

Indian Reorganization Act

In the 1930s, the policy of the federal government shifted from trying to assimilate Indian people by "allotting" land within Indian reservations to individual Indians and non-Indians to a policy intended to strengthen Tribal governments. In 1934, a landmark law known as the "Wheeler-Howard Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 (IRA)" was enacted. The IRA sought to improve the condition of Indian communities by strengthening Tribal governments by allowing those governments to organize under a constitution. The IRA also ended the practice of allotting reservation lands and provided a mechanism to assist Tribes in re-acquiring lands within their reservations.

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The Restoration Era

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At the request of Jacob Walker Cobmoosa, Jerome Medacco wrote to Commissioner of Indian Affairs John Collier to ask the Bureau of Indian Affairs to acquire lands for the Grand River Ottawa within their Reservations so the Grand River Ottawa could take advantage of the IRA. Word of potential benefits under the IRA spread to various Grand River communities. Petitions requesting assistance under the IRA were filed by Arthur Moby on behalf of the Grand River Ottawa residing on the Manistee Reservation and by Enos Pego on behalf of the Grand River Ottawa living on the 1855 Reservation in Mason and Oceana Counties. Those petitions specifically asked the United States to provide them with reservation lands.

John Collier and other Bureau of Indian Affairs employees met with Grand River delegations in Manistee, Muskegon, and Grand Rapids in 1935 and 1936 to discuss their potential reorganization under the IRA. As those discussions progressed, the issue of whether or not the Grand River Ottawas would be allowed to reorganize and take advantage of the benefits under the IRA hinged on the issue of reservation land.

As a result of the closure of the Mackinaw Agency over 40 years ago, the BIA had no current institutional knowledge of the history of the Grand River Bands' Reservations. Most of the lands within the Grand River Bands' Reservations had been conveyed – in many cases illegally – to non-Indians. Those lands that had been conveyed to individual Grand River Band members were transferred as “fee patents” and Band members quickly lost title to most of those lands through illegal tax sales and fraud. Because there were no “trust” lands within the Reservations, BIA officials took the legally incorrect position that no Grand River Reservations still existed. At that time, most federal officials did not recognize the distinction between “land ownership” and “reservation boundaries”. Federal officials believed that the Grand River Ottawa could not reorganize under the IRA until “new” reservation lands, held in “trust” by the United States, were purchased for the Bands.

In the end, federal officials refused to allow the Grand River Ottawa (and other Michigan Ottawa communities) the opportunity to receive assistance and to reorganize under the IRA. Federal officials stated a number of reasons for their decision. Most notably, federal officials stated that the Grand River Ottawa could not vote to reorganize under a constitution unless and until reservation lands were acquired for them. Unfortunately, the burden on the federal government caused by the Depression meant that no additional appropriations would be approved to permit the acquisition of “new” reservation lands for the Grand River Ottawa. Federal officials also continued to re-state their belief that the tribal organization of the Grand River Bands had been “dissolved” under the 1855 Treaty

and that the Grand River Ottawa were all citizens of Michigan.

Northern Michigan Ottawa Association

In 1946, the United States created the Indian Claims Commission to resolve the numerous legal claims that Indian tribes nationwide had against the United States government for wrongs committed by federal officers and agencies. Grand River Ottawa leaders, who had unsuccessfully tried to bring treaty-based claims against the United States acted quickly to use this new process to pursue their claims. Initially, Jacob Walker Cobmoosa, still using Power of Attorney he received in 1918, attempted to file the claims on behalf of the Grand River Ottawa.

Cobmoosa's efforts were picked up by a new generation of Ottawa leaders, Levi McClellan, Robert Dominic and Waunetta Dominic, who had formed a new organization, the Northern Michigan Ottawa Association (NMOA). With Cobmoosa's support, the Dominics and the NMOA hired attorneys to pursue the claims of the Grand River Ottawa (and other Ottawa communities) against the United States.

Dominic asked Cornelius Bailey to meet with Grand River Ottawa Elders to collect documents and other information they may have concerning claims against the United States. Ultimately, the NMOA and its attorneys drafted a complaint listing eleven claims for unconscionable dealings by the United States government in the way it compensated the Ottawa for lands under various treaties. While the prosecution of those claims proceeded, the NMOA continued organizational efforts to serve as an “umbrella” government for Ottawa communities throughout Michigan.

The NMOA organized itself as an umbrella council for local units that elected their own officers who were sent to serve on a central committee. The Grand River Ottawas elected several local units representing Reservation communities and urban/out-of-state communities. Units 5 and 7 of the NMOA represented the Reservation communities in Manistee, Mason, Oceana and Muskegon Counties. Although many Reservation-based Grand River Ottawa families wanted to pursue claims for Reservation lands, the NMOA leadership made clear that claims being pursued were for compensation for lands the Ottawa and Chippewa were forced to sell to the United States under the 1836 Treaty, not for the return of lands illegally taken from the Band or Band members.

The NMOA won claims against the United States in 1964 (for Grand River Ottawa claims under the 1821 Treaty of Chicago) and 1968 (for Ottawa/Chippewa claims under the 1836 and 1855 Treaties). The Indian Claims Commission agreed that the federal government had knowingly paid too little money for millions of acres the Ottawa and Chippewa had sold to the United States. The Grand River Ottawa voted to divide the funds

awarded to them as per capita payments to Grand River persons who were ¼ Ottawa blood or more. The Grand River Ottawa, through the Grand River Band Descendant's Committee, also exercised their political will to win Congressional approval of their proposed distribution plan over the objections of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Restoration of Tribal Status and Reservations

Although the matter of restoring sovereignty to the Ottawa Bands and the status of their Reservations remained unsettled, the Grand River Ottawa's political victory in obtaining approval of their distribution plan empowered the Grand River leadership to seek broader recognition of their political status. Grand River leaders formed new organizations (Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians, Inc., and the Thornapple Band of Ottawa Indians, Inc.) to promote broader political/community goals.

Grand River Ottawa leaders or headmen began seeking funds to develop housing for members residing on their Reservations and again petitioned the United States to provide lands to the Bands within their Reservations. Leaders in the Oceana County portion of the 1855 Reservation sought funds to develop housing for members residing on or near the Reservation. Leaders on the Manistee Reservation petitioned federal officials to acquire lands within the Reservation for their use. Leaders also contacted the Native American Rights Fund for legal assistance in obtaining restoration of Manistee Reservation lands.

Bureau of Indian Affairs officials responded by telling them that land and services were only available to bands and tribes that were “federally recognized”. This created a “Catch-22” situation for the Grand River Ottawa because these same Bureau of Indian Affairs officials had been telling Grand River Ottawa leaders that only those bands and tribes that had “reservation lands” could be recognized as sovereigns. Thus, the matter of restoration of the United States' recognition of the Bands' political status and reservation status became more frequent topics of discussion at NMOA meetings.

The concepts of “federal recognition” and “federal restoration” were new to both the Ottawa and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Those concepts appear to have originated as part of the 1977 American Indian Policy Review Commission's examination of the history of Indian tribes' relationship with United States. One result of that Commission's work was establishment of the Bureau of Indian Affairs' regulations allowing “unrecognized” tribes and bands to petition the Bureau to have their “status” as tribes recognized and to reestablish government-to-government relations with the United States.

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The Restoration Era

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In the mid-1970s, the issue of “reservation” status of lands in Michigan also received renewed attention from Bureau of Indian Affairs in connection with efforts to identify claims as part of the process of implementing federal legislation intended to resolve thousands of claims nationwide. As part of this process, the Bureau of Indian Affairs was charged with identifying potential land claims possessed by Tribes, individual Bands, and Band members, including claims on Michigan reservations. The Bureau of Indian Affairs contracted with Michigan Indian Legal Services to examine land transaction records; however, it quickly became apparent that the amount of time and funding allowed for this task would not be sufficient. In addition, it also became apparent to federal officials that many of the claims being investigated on the Ottawa Reservations involved wrongdoing by the federal government. Funding for the project was ended in 1981 before the investigators were able to identify potential claims of the Grand River Ottawa or Band members. This most recent neglect – if not wrongdoing – by the federal government apparently took place without the knowledge of Grand River Ottawa leaders.

The Manistee Reservation-based Ottawas who formed the “Thornapple River Band”, later formed a second non-profit corporation called the “Little River Band of Ottawa Indians”. The name

“Little River Band” was chosen because the Band owned a small piece of land on the Little Manistee River. In 1991, Band members obtained the first of several federal grants intended to assist that portion of the Grand River Ottawa petition the Bureau of Indian Affairs to restore their tribal sovereignty. They also asked Senators Donald Riegel and Levin and Congressman Dale Kildee to urge Congress to pass legislation that would recognize that the Ottawa continued to exist as sovereigns or governments.

Although this particular effort was focused on restoration of the federal government’s recognition of the status of the Bands as sovereigns, Tribal Council members involved in the legislation knew that restoration of the Reservations was an integral part of this effort. The Tribal Council and community members involved in the reaffirmation efforts also knew that the Grand River Ottawa had, in the eyes of the federal government, lost their sovereignty as a result of having lost – mostly through wrongdoing on the part of federal and state officials - title to the lands within their Reservations.

In cooperation with the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa and Pokagon Potawatomi, the Little River Ottawa achieved their goal. More than one hundred years after the United States claimed the Ottawas had been dissolved, the United States Congress passed a law that would restore and reaffirm the status of the Little River Band of Ottawa as a sovereign – as the political successor of nine

(9) of the nineteen (19) Bands of Grand River Ottawa. President Clinton signed the bill into law on September 21, 1994.

Little River leaders who worked to win this legislation laid the groundwork for restoring the recognition of the Tribe’s Reservations and to recover lands within those Reservations. The restoration legislation reestablished, all rights and privileges of the Bands, and their members thereof, which may have been abrogated or diminished before the date of the enactment of this Act. . . . The Secretary shall acquire real property in Manistee and Mason Counties for the benefit for the Little River Band.

Language of the legislation restored the political sovereignty of the Little River Band Ottawa Indians as a Tribal government. The words also refer to all treaty rights and privileges that were taken from the tribe. The words were intended to refer to the reservation land the Tribe lost during the 1870s. The law specifically requires the United States to buy land in the counties where the reservations are located for the restored tribe. With the support of Tribal members, the Tribal Council and Tribal Ogema are working to get the United States to honor this most recent commitment. The Little River Band Tribal Council continues the work of our ancestors to restore our Reservation land so that our rights as Ottawa people – and as a Nation - can never be denied to us again.

National American Indian Heritage Month, 2004 By the President of the United States of America A Proclamation

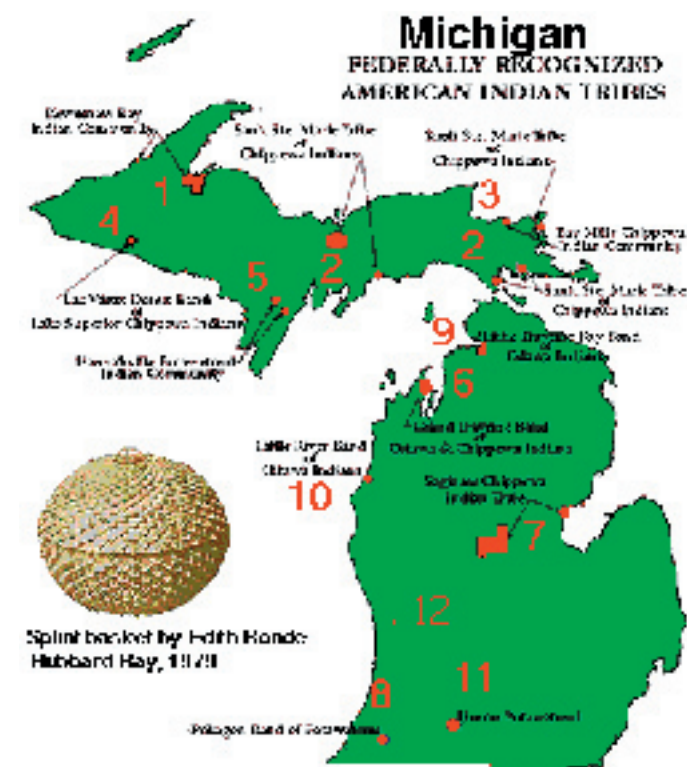
“As the first people to call our country home, American Indians and Alaska Natives have a noble history in this land and have long shaped our Nation. During National American Indian Heritage Month, we celebrate our commitment to respect and preserve the rich Native American traditions and cultures. The enduring experiences of tribal communities are a cherished part of our national story. In September, I was proud to meet with tribal leaders and celebrate the opening of the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of the American Indian on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. This new facility stands as a powerful symbol of the pride and vitality of our Native Peoples. The museum showcases masterworks of great cultural, historical, and spiritual significance. Through exhibits documenting past and

present achievements and hopes for the future, it will introduce generations of visitors to the strong and living traditions of Native Americans. As a center for scholarship and learning, the National Museum of the American Indian will also advance understanding of the diversity that makes our Nation great. My dministration is committed to helping Native Americans as they build on their proud legacy. With the funding of my 2005 budget, we will have provided the Bureau of Indian Affairs with more than \$1.1 billion for school construction and repairs during the past 4 years. To improve education for American Indian and Alaska Native children, I signed an executive order establishing an Interagency Working Group to help students meet the standards set by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 in a manner that is consistent with tribal traditions, languages, and cultures. By setting standards for academic achievement and cultural learning, Americans in all communities can help their children realize a brighter future. I also signed an executive memorandum to

all Federal agencies affirming the Federal Government’s continuing commitment to recognize tribal sovereignty and self-determination. As they have in the past, tribal governments will maintain jurisdiction over their lands, systems of self-governance, and government-to-government relationships with the United States. NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States do hereby proclaim November 2004 as National American Indian Heritage Month. I encourage all Americans to commemorate this month with appropriate programs and activities and to learn more about the rich heritage of American Indians and Alaska Natives. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fourth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-ninth.”

- GEORGE W. BUSH

Michigan’s Federally Recognized Tribes Information



- 1. Keweenaw Bay Indian Community-Baraga
- 2. Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians
- 3. Bay Mills Indian Chippewa Community
- 4. Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Michigan-Watersmeet
- 5. Hannahville Indian Community -- Potawatomi-Wilson
- 6. Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
- 7. Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of MI -Isabella Reservation
- 8. Pokagon Band of Potawatomi -Dowagiac
- 9. Little Traverse Bay Band of Ottawa Indians -- Odawa tribe-Petoskey
- 10. Little River Band of Ottawa Indians- Manistee
- 11. Huron Potawatomi Reservation, Nottawaseppi Huron Band- Dorr
- 12. Match-E-Nash-She-Wish Band of Potawatomi Indians (Gun Lake Band)

Michigan Inter-Tribal Council of MI: <http://www.itcmi.org/>
Michigan Department of Civil Rights: <http://www.michigan.gov/mdcr>
Michigan 1994 Tribal Land Grant Colleges:
Bay Mills Community College: <http://www.bmcc.org/>
Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College: <http://www.sagchip.org/>
Inter-tribal Ag Council: <http://www.indianaglink.com>
Chippewa-Ottawa Resource Authority: <http://www.1836cora.org/>
Great Lakes Indians Fishery Wildlife Commission: <http://www.glifwc.org/>

EPA Sites with details regarding tribes in MI: <http://www.epa.gov/Region5/tribes/tribepages/>

Omission from the new WWII Memorial

This article is based on an e-mail that has been circulating. It was submitted to the Currents by Tribal Member, John Ross. Currents has added F.D.R.’s actual words. His speech, with audio, can be found at <http://ynuucc.yeungnam.ac.kr/~bwlee/esc/fdr.htm>. - Emily Drouin

- One should not change the words of history -

“Today I went to visit the new World War II Memorial in Washington, DC. I got an unexpected history lesson. Since I’m a baby boomer, I was one of the youngest in the crowd. Most were the age of my parents, veterans of “the greatest war” with their families. Hundreds of us milled around the memorial, reading the inspiring words of Ike and Truman that are engraved there. On the Pacific side of the memorial, a group of us gathered to read the words of President Roosevelt announcing the attack on Pearl Harbor. One woman read the words aloud: “With confidence in our armed forces, with the un bounding determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph.” But as she read, she was suddenly angry. “They left out the end of the quote. They left out the most important part. Roosevelt said “so help us God.”” I went home and pulled out the book “Flags of our Fathers” by

James Bradley. It’s all about Iwo Jima. (...) there it was on page 58. Roosevelt’s speech to the nation. It ends “so help us God.” The people who edited out that part of the speech when they engraved it could have fooled me. I was born after the war. But they couldn’t fool the people who were there. Roosevelt’s words are engraved on their hearts. Who gave them the right to change the words of history?! People today are trying to change the history of America by leaving God out of it, but the truth is, God has been a part of this nation, since the beginning.”

“Mr. Vice President, Mr. Speaker, Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives, yesterday, Dec. 7, 1941 - a date which will live in infamy - the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan. The United States was at peace with that nation and, at the solicitation of Japan, was still in conversation with its government and its emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific. Indeed, one hour after Japanese air squadrons had commenced bombing in the American island of Oahu, the Japanese ambassador to the United States and his col-

leagues delivered to our Secretary of State a formal reply to a recent American message. While this reply stated that it seemed useless to continue the existing diplomatic negotiations, it contained no threat or hint of war or armed attack. It will be recorded that the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes it obvious that the attack was deliberately planned many days or even weeks ago. During the intervening time, the Japanese government has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace. The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian islands has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. I regret to tell you that very many American lives have been lost. In addition, American ships have been reported torpedoed on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu. Yesterday, the Japanese government also launched an attack against Malaya. Last night, Japanese forces attacked Hong Kong. Last night, Japanese forces attacked Guam. Last night, Japanese forces attacked the Philippine Islands. Last night, the Japanese attacked Wake Island. And this morning, the Japanese attacked Midway Island. Japan has, therefore, undertaken a surprise offensive extending throughout the

Pacific area. The facts of yesterday and today speak for themselves. The people of the United States have already formed their opinions and well understand the implications to the very life and safety of our nation. As commander in chief of the Army and Navy, I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense. But always will our whole nation remember the character of the onslaught against us. No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory. I believe that I interpret the will of the Congress and of the people when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to the uttermost, but will make it very certain that this form of treachery shall never again endanger us. Hostilities exist. There is no blinking at the fact that our people, our territory and our interests are in grave danger. With confidence in our armed forces - with the unbounding determination of our people - we will gain the inevitable triumph - so help us God. I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, Dec. 7, 1941, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese empire.” – F.D.R.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Alycia Shepard for making the Manistee Middle School Seventh Grade Honor Roll!
–We are all proud of you! Love your Dad.

Congratulations & Best Wishes go out to Gary Lewis & Denise Koon for their marriage on November 27th, 2004. God Bless you both.
- From the Lewis Family.

Happy Birthday!

Happy Birthday Aunt Dawn (Dec.11) We love you!
- Josclyn, Jalissa, Jacob, Jasmine, Jacquelyn & Jessie James.

Happy Birthday Dawn! (Dec. 5) Have a great year!
- Love, your little sister.

Happy Birthday Mark Hutson Sr.
- Love, from your family; Deb, Mark Jr. (Heidi - AKA Staples).

Happy 16th Birthday, to Alex David Cogswell - II.
- I love you very much. Dad.(Dec. 10th)

Happy Belated Birthday to Brian Medacco!
December 17th.
- From the Tribal Council

To: Brian Moore
Happy Birthday BOO, from all who love you!
Have a very special day and many years to come.
- Your Big Brother and Clan.

Happy Belated Birthday to Brian Medacco.
- From his Friend Maudie

A Happy Birthday to my sister & auntie, Debra Antoine,
January 23rd.
- Love Nita, Jeremy, Janelle & James

Happy Birthday to my dad & grandfather,
Charles Antoine, (January 8th)
- Love Nita, Jeremy, Janelle & James.

Happy Birthday to my friend Kathy
January 11th
- Your friend, Juanita

Thank You!

Big Chi Migwetch from the Lavern Oren Family!
We would like to thank everyone for their outpouring of love.
Thank you for the food, for the drummers, the speakers and the fire keepers, for the beautiful flowers and for all your prayers.
Thank you for helping our family heal.
- From Terry Nauta & family.

Happy Birthday!

Happy “8th” Birthday John Kenneth Oskaboose, on December 22nd, 2004.
- We love you! From Dad, Mom, Justin and William.

Happy Birthday “Little One” Margie Harris, on December 15th
- From sis Dee & Raymond!

Remembering...

Judi Ann Bacon Fricke
A.K.A. Broken Wolf Spirit
Born 6-23-71 died 3-8-03

Judi we want you to know that you are loved amd missed, especially at this time of the year. And even though you’re not here in person you are here in our hearts. We love you and miss you so much.
- Love, your little brother, little sister, mom & dad and the rest of the family



Members Assistance Department

Home Repair Program

This program is intended to assist low income members in need of assistance to repair substandard home conditions. The Home Repair Program can assist in the repair of substandard roof, electrical, heating, plumbing systems and in some cases weatherization. A complete application and supporting documentation must be submitted for eligibility determination before assistance is provided.

Eligibility Requirements:

- a. Enrolled Member of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians.
- b. Member is a permanent member of the household.
- c. Home is located in the continental United States.
- d. Household income does not exceed the income criteria set forth by the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians.
- e. Ownership of home must be in the Tribal member’s name.
- f. Home meets the definition of substandard condition.

Maximum amount of assistance: \$6000.00

To request and application or would like more information about this program. Please contact the Members Assistance Department to speak with Lee A. Ivinson or Amber Moore. 231-723-8288 or toll free 888-723-8288

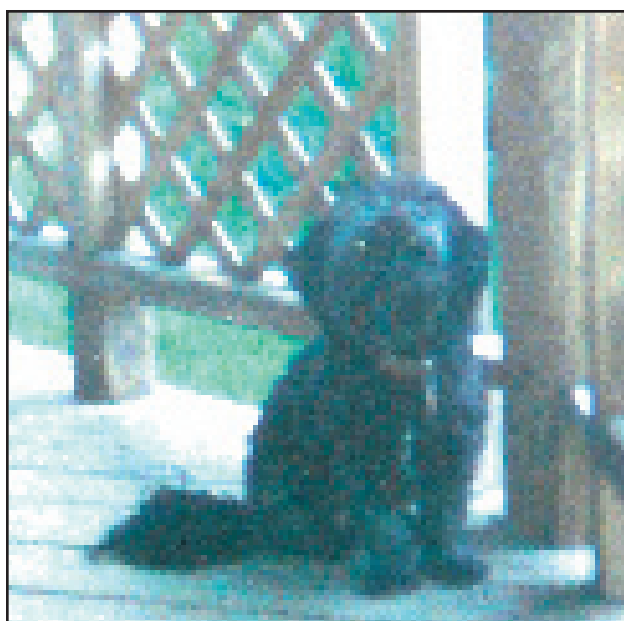
Raven Lewis - Kennedy Elementary "Superstar"



Raven Lewis was honored to be Kennedy Elementary "Superstar" for her second year. The recommendation came from her teacher, Mr. Phillips, for citizenship, getting her work in on time, assisting other students, and being courteous and respectful of school rules. The honor has nothing to do with grades although she is an A & B student. Raven played basketball this year and ended the season with a winning streak including being champions of the final playoffs. She was the first ever, Miss Little River Junior Princess. She loves babies, enjoys singing, drawing, theatre, and shawl dancing. Raven is 11 years old, has one sister and 3 brothers. Her father is Al Eastman from Rosebud, South Dakota and her Mother is Kareen Lewis, Manistee resident. Congratulations Raven!



Reggie



Reggie died July, 2003. He was born in April, 1987. He was my guardian and friend. He liked to sit at the window and lie in the sun and he loved to ride in the car. Often I'd leave on trips, when I arrived home I was truly greeted. He lived

16 years, and was always happy. He sat close to me every morning when I had my coffee. I liked my first cup of coffee with no t.v, afterward, I'd turn on the t.v. to get the news. Reggie patiently waited for his breakfast. He loved to eat, he knew when I ate out I'd bring him a treat. In the evening he'd wait until I was ready for bed. Sometimes 9pm – or midnight, he'd go to bed when I'd go. He had his own bed, which was fresh. He loved a fresh bed, although he only tolerated his bath. He had his own door to go in and out as he pleased. Sometimes he'd go out at night if he heard something, and bark to scare them away – he did have a mean bark for a little fellow. He loved the summer and also the snow.

Loosing him has been very hard. I think of my Reggie every day. Often I still cry. There were just Reggie and I all those years. Reggie thought he was a puppy 'till the last 6 months of his life. He then

was failing fast. Even the morning that the vet put him to sleep, he still greeted me as always. Reggie is in my backyard. It's been over a year ago since he left. I still cannot talk about him without crying. My little friend is resting. There is something comforting about the cycle of life. Sometimes I think of Reggie and I think that our goodness grows as we age. Reggie and I had a happy life, such should be ours.

*He's your friend, your partner,
your defender, your dog.
You're his life, his love, his leader.
He will be yours faithful and true to the
last beat of his heart.
You owe it to him to be worthy of such
devotion.*

- Virginia Lenartowicz

Manistee County Humane Society



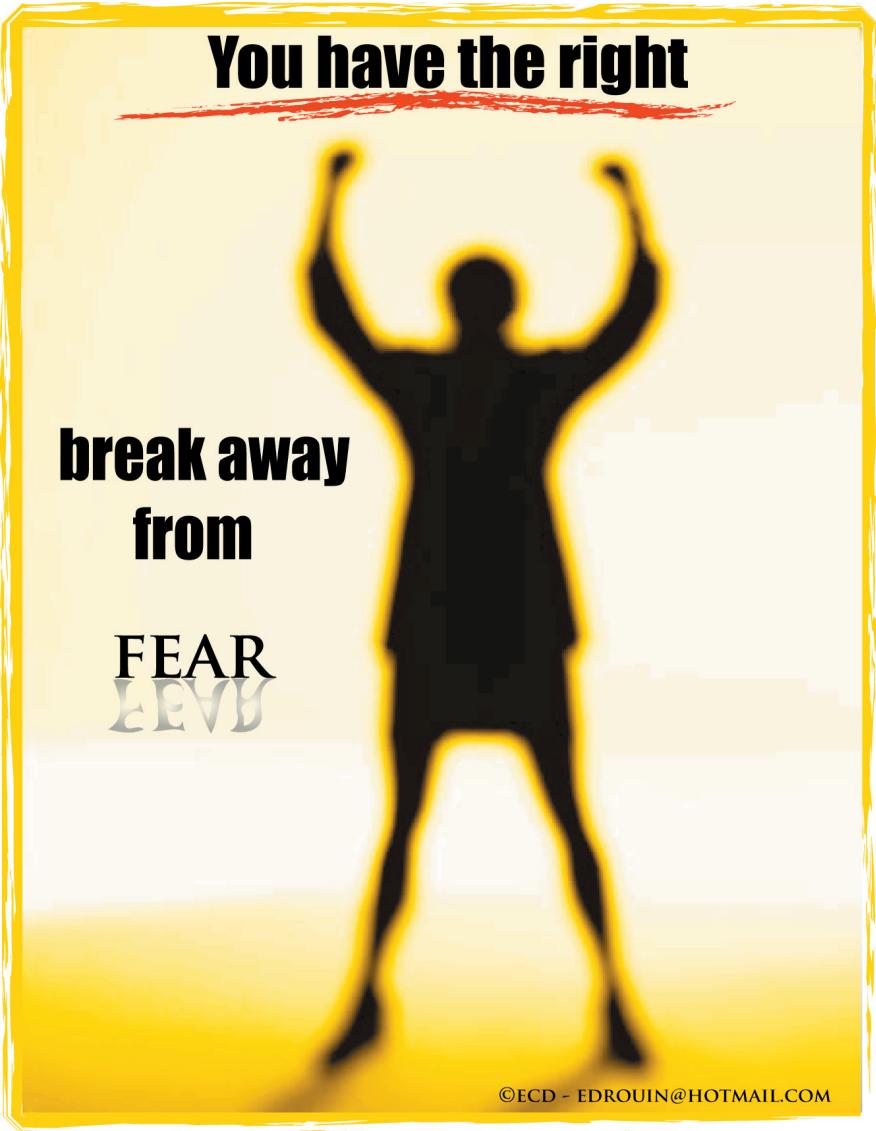
Reggie's story is a lot like that of many cats and dogs. He was loved and he loved in return. An animal can change your life, just by being your friend. The Manistee County Humane Society has a Pet Adoption referral line where people who can't keep their pets can list them and others who are looking for a pet can call and hopefully a connection can be made.

The Manistee County Humane Society is a tax exempt, non-profit charity and all gifts and donations are deductible contributions. They are staffed only by volunteers - there is no paid position. Until now, they have had no shelter. Their biggest project has been the spay/neuter program. They offer coupons to help with the cost of this very essential surgery. The pet owner pays \$20 - \$30 depending on the sex and species, and the Humane Society pays the difference. The coupon is good at all local vets. Three people remembered The Manistee County Humane Society in their will in the last several years. Two years ago they purchased some land and last summer, broke ground for a new shelter! "We hope to be in it by the end of January 2005. Although we have enough to build it, we are naturally concerned about the upkeep

and about running it. Our only source of income are donations, memberships and fundraisers throughout the year. We are hoping that once we open, all the people who have offered to volunteer actually meant it! Any help from the community will be greatly appreciated - food, toys, litter funds. It will all be needed. An animal shelter is going to be something new for our area. There has never been one in the area, Animal Control, has been the only resource for lost pets." says Toni Krueger.

Their web page is:
manisteecountypets.petfinder.com

Their phone # is:
231-889-4613



Domestic Violence Victim’s Rights

You have the right

- ✓ Not to be abused
- ✓ To anger over past beatings
- ✓ To choose to change the situation
- ✓ To freedom from fear of abuse
- ✓ To request assistance from police or social agencies
- ✓ To share your feelings and not be isolated form others
- ✓ To want a better role model of communication for yourself and your children
- ✓ To be treated like an adult
- ✓ To leave the battering environment
- ✓ To privacy
- ✓ To express your own thoughts and feelings
- ✓ To develop your individual talents and abilities
- ✓ To legally persecute the abuser
- ✓ Not to be perfect

**Important Numbers
FOR EMERGENCIES DIAL 9-1-1**

Tribal Court (231) 398-3406
Peacemaking (231) 398-3401

Family Services
Tribal Health
Member’s Assistance
Behavioal Health

} (888) 723-8288

Asleep at the Wheel to Appear at Little River Casino Resort

(Manistee, MI) – Nine (9) time Grammy™ Winners Asleep at the Wheel will be at the Little River Casino Resort on Thursday December 29 and Friday December 30. There will be two shows each night at 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

This is a country western swing band that has been around for 34 years. They have just been nominated in this year’s Grammy™ Awards not once but twice! Once for Best Country Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocals with the song, “New San Antonio Rose”. The second nomination is for Best Country Instrumental Performance with, “Billy in the Low Ground”.

Asleep at the Wheel is also among the scheduled entertainers at the 2005 Presidential Inaugural celebration. This will be held on January 19, 2005, Asleep at the Wheels performance is sponsored by the Texas State Society for the Black Tie and Boots Inaugural Ball. They were also at the 2001 Inaugural celebration and were invited back to ring in President Bush’s second term to office.

Tickets are on sale now at the Little River Casino Resort Gift Shop and on line at Star Tickets Plus. Tickets are \$30 and are going fast!

Tribal Police (non-emergency only) (231) 398-3413

Rape Crisis (800) 968-5070

Shelters

Choices of Manistee (231) 723-6004
or (800) 723-7220

Region four of Ludington (231) 845-7983
or (800) 950-5808